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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE elections being at an end, and all active political life having ceased, in England, for the present, the writer in search of political subjects has scarcely any choice but to look abroad for them. The one domestic political subject in which some interest seems to be felt, and which is brought forward constantly enough by our daily contemporaries, is that of reform. There seems to be a general belief that a reform bill of some kind must be introduced next Session; and during the few months that will elapse before the meeting of Parliament we shall, no doubt, have plenty of schemes for extending the suffrage presented to us through the public journals. The more the subject is discussed, the greater will be the chance of the Liberal party coming to some understanding upon it. Hitherto, the very number and variety of the reform projects submitted to the public have furnished the opponents of reform with their best argument. The

Reformers are divided among themselves. They agree in saying that the suffrage ought to be extended, but differ in the most remarkable manner as to the point up to which the extension ought to be carried. At the time of the first Reform Bill, the agitation in support of the measure was kept up by the non-electors themselves; and it was understood that votes had to be given to those very persons who were so clamorous in demanding them. The chief reason for which the right of sending representatives to Parliament was conceded to Manchester was that Manchester earnestly desired it and would not rest until she obtained it. Now, however, the case is quite different. Those who are excluded from the franchise do not seem to feel the grievance themselves. They have friends, in and out of Parliament, who feel it for them; but this is really not enough; and unless the non-electors, or some portion of them, make known their own wishes on the subject, it may be difficult to show why elec-

toral privileges should be forced upon them in spite of themselves. There has been so much talk, however, about reform, and Lord Palmerston's Government has been so severely blamed for not fulfilling its promise in respect to the passing of a reform bill, that a reform bill in some shape or other will, doubtless, be brought in as soon as possible after the meeting of Parliament.

Indeed, this intention is already indicated plainly enough by the publication of a Parliamentary paper, in which an account is given of the numbers and qualifications of voters in the counties of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. These particulars are evidently meant as data for the use of the scientific reformer; and it is encouraging to see that the work of reform having once been taken in hand, it is proposed to carry it out in a careful and reasonable manner. This was not the case in 1860, when the Government brought forward a plan for reducing the borough and county franchises without



LANDING THE SHORE-END OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE IN FOILHOMMERUM BAY, VALENCIA, IRELAND.

being able to lay any statistics before the Legislature to show the effects of the change recommended. The paper now produced is probably the first of a long series in connection with the subject of Parliamentary reform. The propriety, and indeed necessity, of such a publication can scarcely be insisted on too strongly. Before modifying our present system of representation, we ought surely to know what that system is in all its details; and such information as this has hitherto been very difficult to obtain. The Parliamentary paper on county constituencies shows that the number of county electors in England is half a million; in Wales, forty thousand; in Scotland, fifty thousand; in Ireland, a hundred and seventy-two thousand. In England, the proportion of freeholders to occupying tenants is something more than three to one. In Scotland, the tenants and freeholders are nearly equal; while, in Ireland, the proportion of occupiers to freeholders is nearly as eighteen to one—that is to say, that in England (and also in Wales) the franchise is principally freehold; that in Ireland it is in an overwhelming proportion leasehold; while in Scotland it is pretty equally divided. If, then, it be maintained that in English boroughs it would be impossible to lower the franchise very considerably without throwing an undue amount of political power into the hands of one class—that of the working men—it may be argued that in the counties all the power is already in the hands of one class—that of the landed proprietors. A report on the borough constituencies, similar to the one now before us on the constituencies of counties, would be very valuable; though it may be doubted whether a good case for effecting any very considerable extension of the suffrage in boroughs could be made out of it. The great point, however, is, in such an important question as that of Parliamentary reform, not to legislate in the dark; and it is gratifying to find that this conviction is fully entertained by the Government.

It is a remarkable sign of the dulness of the political world at home that so much attention should be paid just now to the affairs of Germany. The quarrel between Austria and Prussia on the subject of Schleswig-Holstein is not very important in itself, though it is, of course, instructive to watch the inability of two plunderers to agree as to what shall be done with the plunder. It is interesting, however, to see the influence that Austria is regaining in Germany by the adoption of a liberal policy just when Prussia is rendering herself generally detested by moving precisely in the contrary direction. Austrian Constitutionalism is not very solidly established, perhaps; but Austria has known at least the forms of representative government for the last five years, and the Ministers who compose the new Austrian Cabinet are certainly more liberal than their predecessors.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times*, in speaking of the great unpopularity of M. Mecséry, the late Austrian Minister of Police, calculates that, during his tenure of office, the united number of years for which journalists were condemned to be imprisoned amounted to fifty-four. This is decidedly bad under a Constitutional Government; but it must be remembered that it is only under a despotic Government exercising a preventive censorship over the press that no such prosecutions take place at all. As a matter of fact, such prosecutions are only instituted in Russia when, by some rare accident, an article offensive to the Government has escaped the censor's eye or when it has been deliberately inserted in spite of his veto. In Austria, however, the censorial system is combined with freedom of the press in such a manner that though a journal cannot be published without the express authorisation of the police for each particular number, yet journalists are at liberty to write and print whatever they please. That is to say, they may print it; but, without permission from an official who performs the functions without bearing the name of censor, cannot put it into circulation. The press is really free, only there are restrictions upon publication.

It is not surprising that a good many Hungarian and Galician journalists should have been caught in this curiously-contrived Viennese trap. But, before judging the Austrian attempt at constitutional government too harshly, let us remember that at least all press offences punished during the last five years in Austria have been punished under a legal system, and that only about half a century ago the number of press prosecutions instituted in Constitutional England amounted to a most alarming number. It appears from a paper laid before Parliament July 16, 1823, that between 1808 and 1821, 101 persons were prosecuted by the Crown, in England alone, for libellous or seditious writing. Of these seven only were acquitted, two were fined sixpence, one was fined a sovereign, one five pounds, and so on, without imprisonment; while eighty were sentenced to various periods of imprisonment, amounting altogether to 171 years. It is to be hoped that M. Mecséry will not look to these facts and figures for a justification of his policy; but his critics and opponents of the thorough-going Constitutional party may perhaps find consolation in them.

MRS. FREDERICK PEEL DIED on Sunday evening, in her thirtieth year. The deceased lady was daughter of Mr. John Shelley, of Avington; and married, in 1857, the Right Hon. Frederick Peel, M.P. Mr. Peel himself is still in a very delicate state of health.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO GERMANY.—The Queen, after visiting the King of the Belgians at Laeken, will travel via Brussels to Cologne, and thence to the Château de Kranichstein, near Darmstadt, on a visit to Princess Alice and Prince Louis. Her Majesty will proceed, at the latter end of August, thence to Coburg, for the inauguration of the monument to the Prince Consort. Lord Granville will be the Minister who will accompany her Majesty during her journey. The Queen's sojourn in Germany will extend over four weeks, when the Queen and Royal family will return to Windsor Castle, to remain there for a few days only, and leave about the middle of September for Scotland. The Court will return to Windsor at the latter end of the month of October for the winter season. —*Court Journal*.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

LANDING THE SHORE-END IN FOILHOMMERUM BAY, VALENCIA.

ON the morning of Saturday, the 22nd ult., the first great step in this important undertaking was accomplished by hauling on land the massive shore-end up the cliffs at the south-western extremity of the island of Valencia, and thence successfully laying it from the Caroline out into deep water to a distance of twenty-five miles at sea.

The place chosen for the landing of the shore-end on this occasion is different from that selected on the two previous expeditions, and the change is, on the whole, an improvement. It is one of those deep inlets between the hills and headlands of this iron-bound coast, about a mile long by half a mile wide, with its mouth almost closed against the sea by a ragged irregular knoll of heath and rock called Butler's Island. Behind this little island—not much larger than the Green Park—the waters of Foilhommerum Bay, as it is called, are calm and still enough, and the sheer black precipices 300 ft. high which form the boundaries of the deep waters are seldom marked with foam. Anything more picturesque than the rugged grandeur of this little bay can scarcely be conceived, with its gaunt dark cliffs, seamed here and there with gaps and rents, like mountains fallen into ruins. In almost every part they have a steepness which is nearly perpendicular, and it makes one equally giddy to look up at or down from them. At the head of the little bay is a rough indication of an earthwork, but only just enough to show what was once its regular outline. This is one of Cromwell's old forts. At its northern extremity towards the sea rises Bray Head, one of the huge savage-looking mountains which, running out into the sea, double the dangers of this dangerous coast, though, from a landsman's point of view, they are invaluable, adding so much to the stern grandeur of the scene. From the peak of Bray Head the mist is seldom moved, and at its ponderous base the blue waters seldom touch but they are churned into flakes of foam, as the waves keep booming with regular beat against its cliffs, calm or storm, winter or summer; against this point—the first land which the great roll of the Atlantic meets—the surge is never quiet. Into this bay, so sheltered by the island and Bray Head, the Caroline was brought round; but though all was still enough inside the cove nothing could be done beyond it, where, amid thick clouds of driving rain, a thundering swell came rolling in which the ships could not attempt to meet. On the 22nd, however, the weather was calm, and, what was better still, the little wind that stirred was off the shore, giving smooth water in Foilhommerum Bay. At eight o'clock, therefore, the landing of the shore-end was commenced, Sir Robert Peel, M.P., the Knight of Kerry, Lord John Hay, Mr. Glass, Mr. Edwards, Dr. Russell, Mr. Barber, and Mr. J. C. Parkinson coming down early to witness it.

The sight was as interesting as it was picturesque. From the stern of the Caroline, moored some 600 or 800 yards from shore, an unbroken line of boats was formed to the beach, each filled with a crew of picked boatmen from all the neighbouring harbours and inlets. These were under the direction and guidance of experienced "cable men," who, in detached cutters and gigs, commanded up and down the line. The first few lengths were soon got out, but thence, dragging its ponderous mass along the line of craft was a slow, laborious business, and it only came out foot by foot, though some 300 or 400 powerful men were pulling on it well together. It took nearly two hours to pass it over the string of boats, and by that time all the rugged cliffs were crowded by peasantry, who not only thronged the steep, dangerous sort of zigzag path which gives access to the head of the bay, but were perched about on little jets and points where any foothold was to be gained, and often where their stand was so precarious that it startled one to look up at them. Nor did the interest evince end here, for the brow of the cliff itself was decorated with extemporised flags made out of little cotton streamers of all kinds, bright-coloured shawls, or even pocket-handkerchiefs; while all round the summit a long fringe of lookers-on stood out sharp and clear against the blue sky, some mounted, some squatted on the ground, dudgeon in mouth; some gesticulating in little groups, and all manifesting the keenest interest in the proceedings of the day. The peasant's view of the mysterious wire is that it will somehow bring him nearer to the land of promise. Every Irish labourer tells you of the relatives or friends who have prospered in America, and no man or woman here seems too old or feeble to hope for the day when their savings will amount to "five or six pounds, yer honour," that they may bid the old country good-by and begin the world anew.

The telegraphic colours, represented by rosettes of red, white, and blue, made and presented by Lady Capel Molyneux, decorated the coats or hats of those immediately interested in the enterprise; and, out of the 300 or 400 employed on the boats and shore to assist in hauling the cable in, it is scarcely necessary to say no two figures were attired alike. The high-collared, swallow-tailed blue coat—new, perhaps, before the electric telegraph was invented, and sadly soiled and threadbare now—worked side by side with the ragged nondescript garment which had been fustian, but had reached the stage of hardly-kept-together tatters. Shirts which blushed darkly at being exposed, jerseys blue, red, and brown, caps and hats of every variety and shape, bare heads, bare legs and feet and arms, made up the line. The boats were similarly manned and continued this line from the stern of the Caroline, some 700 yards off, so that the cable was passed literally from hand to hand from ship to shore. The interest evinced by the people of the island in the operations, though intense, was not very intelligent, and was rather prematurely evinced. Not only had the cable to be landed, but quite a mile in excess was to be hauled on shore, to pass up the cliff and across a couple of fields which led to the Telegraph-house, and gave communication through the land lines to London. But no sooner was the first atom of the end of the cable seen near the shore than a wild "Hooroo" arose from those on land who saw it coming. With a contagion characteristic of the people, the enthusiasm passed rapidly downwards from those on the cliffs to the groups on the winding-path, and thence, like a current of electricity, into the cable-boats themselves, the crews of which joined in the shouting, and, seeing the end so near the land and concluding their work well done, at once proceeded to heave the massive rope into the sea. From boat to boat the first bad example was followed by all until, to the dismay of the cablemen, who could not obtain a hearing amid the continued cheers, every fathom up to the stern of the Caroline was thrown overboard. The result of this enthusiasm was that every foot had to be underrun, preparatory to the whole operation beginning *de novo*. It took some time to effect this, during which time it is but fair to say the Irish were silent and dispirited enough, and, in reply to the admonitions of the Knight of Kerry, promised to refrain from cheering till at least all was done—a promise which they kept faithfully. When the cable had been underrun, hauled into the boats again, and the shore-end really began to come on land, and was stowed away in gigantic circles at the foot of the cliff, the scene was one of real animation. Numbers of men were in the water up to their waists or shoulders easing the cable over the rocks; while along the steep path up the cliffs was a close row of figures, men and boys of every rank, from the well-to-do farmer down to the poorest cottier, all pulling at the cable with a will, and, as if in atonement for their first fault of enthusiasm, obeying with silent and almost childlike docility every signal made as to when they were to haul or slack away. By twelve o'clock the cable was well up the groove which had been cut in the face of the cliff for its reception, and from this point the work of carrying its massive coils to the receiving-house was soon accomplished, and, at a little before one o'clock, the end, taken over roads, hedges, and ditches, was safely housed in the *sanctum sanctorum*—the testing-room. Here the batteries were at once applied, and showed both conductivity and insulation to the last fathom in the hold of the Caroline absolutely perfect, and no sooner was this all-important fact ascertained than the Hawk took the Caroline in tow, while the rest of the cable was paid out to sea. Amid the most earnest cheers from the crowds both vessels started on their short cruise, and at the same time, in the testing-room of the receiving-house, the Knight of Kerry and Sir

Robert Peel offered their warm congratulations to Mr. Glass on the success so far achieved. The shore-end of the cable is of a uniform thickness of 2½ in. throughout its entire length of twenty-seven miles. At the sea-end of this length there are 500 yards of rapid tapering, till it ends in being the size of the main deep-sea portion of the cable. This shore-end is the strongest and heaviest ever constructed, weighing upwards of twenty tons a mile, and being equal to a breaking strain of ninety tons. All the massive rods which form its outside covering are carefully galvanized, to protect them from the rust which so soon consumes the stoutest iron wire when laid in shallow seas.

DEPARTURE OF THE GREAT EASTERN.

Nothing could possibly have been more auspicious than all the circumstances attending the departure of the great ship, both as regards weather and the mechanical fitness of all the apparatus connected with the process of submerging. During her stay at Beershaven all the machinery for paying-out, under-running, letting go the buoy-rope, &c., had been tested and found to answer on board the ship as well as in the factory at Woolwich. The Caroline having paid out her share of the cable, but leaving some half mile on her decks to form the splice, this operation was completed on the 23rd. The Great Eastern was off Bray Head at nine a.m., but at such a distance from the dangerous shore that only those provided with good glasses could make out from the land where the huge vessel lay, under the cloud of smoke which she poured forth, and which reached like a fog-bank across the ocean. The party who started to witness the making of the splice and the final starting left Valencia in the Hawk, the Great Eastern's rapid tender, soon after nine in the morning. Among those on board were Lord John Hay; Sir R. Peel, M.P.; the Knight of Kerry, with his daughters, the Misses Fitzgerald; Captain White, R.N.; Captain Hamilton, Mr. W. H. Russell, &c. The western extremity of Ireland was reached in about an hour, and soon afterwards the magnificent rock that carries the Skellig Light, a wild, stupendous mass of cliff which, amid deep water, rises from the ocean to a height of 800 ft., and which the incessant beat of the Atlantic seems to have worn into seams and angry gaps that almost undermine its base. About fifteen miles beyond these rocks the Great Eastern was at rest, not moving to the dull, easy swell, though her two guards of honour, the Terrible and Sphinx, were rolling slightly; while the Caroline, with the end of the shore-cable on board, was especially lively. It is difficult to describe in any but the most matter-of-fact terms the routine process which marked the commencement of this enterprise. It had already begun when the Hawk arrived, and the paddle-box boats of the men-of-war and the cutters of the Great Eastern were filled with cable, which, passing through the paying-out machine astern, was being slowly towed from the great ship to the Caroline. The operation of splicing was one of time and difficulty; for, smooth as the sea had seemed from land, the regular heave of the Atlantic was deep enough. Sir Robert Peel, Lord John Hay, and Mr. Russell managed to get on board the Great Eastern, but with such difficulty that few others were induced to venture on the risk of the undertaking, and still fewer to accomplish it. Soon after one o'clock the coils of the deep-sea cable were safely wound on board the Caroline, and the work of splicing them at once commenced. This was done by stripping both ends of hemp outside wires and gutta-percha for a short distance, till the copper conductor of the line was laid bare and pared down to a fine wedge-shaped point at each end. The connecting conductors were then overlapped in the form known as a "scarf" joint, and firmly bound together with fine threads of copper wire, till the junction was made even stronger than the main portions of the line. The threads and conductor were then soldered together thickly, and strips of soft gutta-percha, like bands of brown tape, were wound layer over layer, and their edges closely pressed, so as to form one homogeneous mass, till a certain thickness was completed. Then came a coating of insulating material called Chatterton's compound, and then again another layer of gutta-percha tape, until the whole was inclosed in four rings of the gutta-percha and three of the compound. The joint was then immersed in cold water for testing, and the signals proving perfect, the last protection of hemp and outside wire was added, and the joint sunk again into the sea that its perfectness as to conductivity and insulation might be ascertained from the extreme end of the whole length of the cable on board the Great Eastern. It was past four o'clock before the last of these tests was concluded; not that it did not test well from the first, but simply because it was intended to exhaust every trial known to electricians before the great journey was begun. All the signals, from end to end of the wire, came wonderfully distinct into the instrument-room of the receiving-house, at the head of Foilhommerum Bay, and, at 4.30 the flags on board the Caroline and Great Eastern were hauled down to show that all was ready. By that time the Great Eastern, which had always kept moving her paddles, at intervals, had forged ahead of the Caroline some two or three miles, paying out the cable slowly, as she went on, and leaving the latter vessel the only float by which one portion of the wire was kept above water. The instant, however, that the flags went down, the last fastenings which held it to the Caroline were cast adrift, and, with a great splash, the final joint of the Atlantic Telegraph and the first thirty miles of its length went down slowly into the blue water and were out of sight. Long before this, Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Hay had returned on board the Hawk, which at once steamed away, when the splice was turned adrift, to overtake the Great Eastern. As the tender came near the thin narrow rope of cable could be seen passing over the last wheel astern, and sinking gently into the foam without strain of any kind, as it seemed for a moment or so to float slowly aft before it disappeared under the swell that still kept rolling deeply in. The after-deck sponsons bridge and paddle-boxes of the Great Eastern were crowded as the Hawk came alongside, and it was easy from the distance which the tender held to distinguish the faces of those on board as they waved their hats and cheered. In the midst of this the Great Eastern fired two guns from her bows at 5.30 to mark the commencement of her journey, and Sir Robert Peel, mounting to the little quarter-deck of the Hawk, marked time, while three small but earnest cheers were given by the select company on board to the success of the great enterprise. In return came back a swelling, hearty roar from all on the cable-ship, as, with the last salute of waving hats, and caps, and handkerchiefs, the tender dropped astern, leaving the Great Eastern dipping slowly but steadily ahead, at the rate of about six knots an hour. Both the Terrible and Sphinx were close at hand, contributing a little, and but a little, to the huge volume of smoke which their gigantic consort spread far and wide over the sea, and which even appeared in the distance to taint the blue mountains of Kerry on shore. As long as signs could be made or hats waved the vessel was anxiously watched, but she soon hid herself in her own smoke, and when the Hawk neared the Irish coast a mere brown cloud in the horizon was all that showed where the greatest ship in the world was steaming away to endeavour to accomplish the realisation of an idea even more venturesome and infinitely more important than that which she herself embodies.

THE WINDING-IN MACHINE.

If the directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company do not achieve success, they at least seem to deserve it by the care they have taken to provide for every contingency that was likely to arise in the course of laying the cable. Besides the paying-out machine, which is a contrivance for letting the rope glide easily and steadily over the stern of the Great Eastern, and so obviate any sudden jerk or jar on the cable in the process of submergence, another apparatus, called the "winding-in machine," of which we publish an Engraving, was fitted up on board. The purpose of this contrivance was to gather in the cable and recoil it in the tanks, in the event of any hitch occurring rendering it necessary to go back and ascertain the point at which the mischief lay.

A FAULT DISCOVERED AND REMEDIED.

This machine has already had to be brought into use at least once since the Great Eastern started on her voyage. A defect in the

cable having been indicated by the imperfect signals conveyed along the wire, it became necessary to find out the spot where the fault lay and to rectify it. When about eighty miles off land, with dead calm weather, the ship going six knots, and the cable, we are told, running out as softly as a "silk rope," the usual test-signals were being sent through, when suddenly both those to and from the shore gave most serious indications of faulty insulation. The utmost alarm was felt on this discovery. The connections of the instruments were carefully re-examined, and the most rigid exactness observed in the final tests. All gave the same result, and what was a still more certain and ominous proof, the return currents from Valencia showed an equal loss. Notice was instantly given to Mr. Canning and Captain Anderson, and the speed of the Great Eastern, which was then in 300 fathoms, was reduced to almost a standstill. It must be remembered that all these signals were sent and received through the whole length of 2300 nautical miles, or about 2700 statute miles, of wire. Valencia was instantly communicated with, and the whole electrical staff under Mr. De Santy set to work to ascertain by resistance tests whether the fault was in the ship or in the eighty miles that had been paid out. Trials of so delicate a nature and of such vital importance to the success of the undertaking were, of course, conducted with the most vigilant caution, and the calculations based upon their data made and re-made to ensure certainty. The result of all was a unanimous decision that the fault was not on board, but in the eighty miles of submerged wire. When this decision had been arrived at, the cable was at once cut on board the Great Eastern, and the length under water tested by Mr. Saunders. With wonderful skill his tests at once "localised" the spot where the fault existed—eleven miles from the stern of the ship and within a quarter of a mile from where it actually was. Instantly preparations were made for getting the Great Eastern round and employing the winding-in apparatus fixed forward specially to be used in case of such mishaps. It was hoped, of course, that its use would never be required; and very many believed that, whether required or not, it would never accomplish what it was intended to achieve. The result proved the fallacy of both hopes and fears. The severed portion of the cable was passed into this machine, and, the Great Eastern steaming back over the rope's course, the work of reeling-in at once began. As we have said, within a quarter of a mile of the spot indicated by Mr. Saunders, the fault was found; and nothing can more strongly indicate the endless perils with which successful submarine telegraphy is beset than the trivial and almost unavoidable accident which had caused it.

As the lengths of wire of 100 or 150 miles were manufactured at Messrs. Glass and Elliott's they were taken down in barges and coiled away in the tanks on board the Great Eastern. Each as it arrived was of course spliced up to that which had preceded it, and this was often done in the tanks themselves. The operation of splicing not only means joining the conductor, but also joining the outside wires, the junction of the latter being made at different lengths—the bits of wire cut out being thrown away. It seems, however, that one of these atoms of wire, about two inches long, and as thick as a stout darning needle, fell on the coil unnoticed—as, indeed, who would notice it, or for a moment think of the consequences which its disregarded presence in such a spot might surely occasion? The weight of the layers of cable laid above this fragment—as insignificant as a shaving in a carpenter's shop—pressed it firmly into the tarred hemp which forms the outside covering of the cable. To this it adhered. While in the tank it did no harm; but when this portion came to be paid out, the small diameter of the eight leading wheels which give access to the paying-out machine, and the weight of the jockey-pulleys over these which keep the rope in its place, bent the stout iron wire so sharply that it passed between the hemp, pierced the gutta-percha through at least two or three of its four folds, and there remained. In this state it was found, and instantly recognised as a piece of wire from a splice-joint. A short length of cable was at once cut out, a new splice made, vigilantly tested, and gradually sunk. When on the bottom it was again re-tested for some hours, the signals were shown to be absolutely perfect, and the great ship once more started on her voyage. With the exception of another slight hitch, which, however, is believed to have arisen from a "kink" in the cable on board, and which was speedily remedied, operations went on successfully up to Wednesday at noon, when all communication with the ship ceased. This state of things still continued up to noon on Thursday. The cause of the severance of communication was unknown. At the date of the last signals, 7.50 a.m. on Wednesday, 1050 miles had been run and 1200 miles of cable paid out.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Paris, though seemingly without a Government, and certainly without a Court, is in a state of profound tranquillity. The Emperor is at Plombières, the Empress and the Prince Imperial are at Fontainebleau, and nearly all the Ministers are scattered over the country. The journals, especially those in the interest of Government, felicitate themselves on the fact that in these circumstances all goes on smoothly in the capital.

It is reported in Paris that Austria is not only willing but anxious to come to some arrangement for the recognition of the kingdom of Italy. This feeling is attributed to the influence of the Imperial Government of France, but is probably in no small degree owing to the growing desire of Austria to prepare herself for possible contingencies arising in Germany by coming to a friendly understanding with the Government of the southern peninsula.

SPAIN.

The Spanish Government has dismissed Senor Tairra from his post as Spanish Minister in Chili, and has issued a Royal order of a peremptory character recalling him to Madrid to give an account of his conduct in expressing himself satisfied with the explanations of the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, contrary to precise instructions received by him when intrusted with the negotiations relative to the settlement of the recent dispute between Spain and Chili.

The *Epoca* asserts that some Legitimist bands have appeared in the mountains of Soria, their watchword being "Spain and Catholicism."

PORTUGAL.

The Portuguese Cortes was opened on Sunday by the King in a speech from the throne. His Majesty referred to the success of his negotiations between England and Brazil, stated the financial condition of the country to be satisfactory, and made references to certain legal changes and reforms, the most important of which was the announcement that a law would shortly be presented for the final abolition of slavery in the Portuguese possessions.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Cabinet has undergone a complete remodelling. The Ministry of Finance has been reorganized and divided into two departments, one of which will be intrusted with the financial administration of the country and the other with the preparation of the Budget. The Ministry of Marine is abolished, and the duties of it (not heavy) are divided between the departments of War and Commerce. Herr von Schmerling becomes President of the Supreme Court of Justice; Dr. Hein, late Minister of Justice, is appointed President of the Supreme Criminal Court of Vienna. Count Belcredi is Minister of State for the non-Hungarian provinces.

The new Austrian Government has opened its administration by an act of clemency and liberality which augurs well for its popularity and permanence. An Imperial decree was issued on Monday pardoning all offenders against the press laws, and ordering pending prosecutions to be stopped and remissions of punishment to be at once made in favour of those now undergoing imprisonment.

Count Belcredi, Minister of State, has addressed a circular to the Governors of all the non-Hungarian provinces urging upon them

the strict fulfilment of their duty and a judicious attitude towards self-governing corporations, and recommending the dispatch of public business, as far as possible, by direct oral procedure rather than by written communications. The circular especially recommends, also, respect for the free expression of public opinion by the press as being a precious and valuable benefit.

PRUSSIA.

The Cologne Court of Appeal has rejected a protest made by the Procurator-General against the decision of the Tribunal of the First Instance, which had declared illegal the act of the police dissolving the Banquet Committee. The Court confirms the decision of the Tribunal of First Instance.

RUSSIA.

From St. Petersburg the intelligence comes that the Russians under General Tchernajew have captured Tashkend with but trifling loss, but that the occupation of the place is to be only provisional. Tashkend is a town of 50,000 inhabitants in the heart of Independent Tartary, about 200 miles north-west of Bokhara.

The Russian Government is reported to have it in contemplation to grant some rights to the Jews in the eastern parts of the empire, where they have hitherto had none. The object is to encourage commerce, for which in that quarter of the world the Jews alone seem to have an aptitude.

THE UNITED STATES.

Our advices from New York reach to the 22nd ult.

The election at Richmond had resulted in the success of the Secession ticket, Lee's paroled soldiers voting.

The New Jersey Republican Convention had passed resolutions favouring the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine.

Ex-Governor Brown, of Georgia, in a letter to the people of his State, dated June 29, resigned his office, and counselled them to aid in restoring civil authority under the Federal rule, and to adopt an effectual system of paid negro labour, declaring that he would himself set the example. Both Mr. Brown and his successor, Mr. Perry, reminded the Northern people that the South submitted to superior physical force alone; and that, if they would restore permanent tranquillity to the country, they must exercise magnanimity towards their fallen foe, whose heroism in the contest they were obliged to acknowledge.

In a case brought before a civil court in Alexandria, Virginia, in which a white man was plaintiff and a negro defendant, the Justice refused, under the State laws, to admit the evidence of coloured witnesses on behalf of the defendant. The Commissioner of Freedmen in that city, by virtue of the orders of General Howard, the chief of the Freedmen's Bureau, demanded the case to be transferred to himself for adjudication, which was refused, and the defendant, failing to appear in court on the day of trial, the Justice rendered judgment for the plaintiff, and ordered the seizure of the defendant's property in satisfaction. The Commissioner immediately placed a military guard over the property to prevent the execution of the Judge's order. The final result of this conflict of authority was unannounced, but General Howard had requested the Mayor of Alexandria to direct the transfer of similar cases hereafter to the officers of his bureau.

Formidable guerrilla bands continued to infest the Teche district of Louisiana.

Two considerable cavalry expeditions, under Generals Custer and Merritt, had been dispatched from Alexandria and Shreveport, Louisiana, into Texas, to disperse the bands of guerrillas and marauders who infest that State.

Owing to continued encounters between whites and negroes in Charleston, the Commandant in that city had prohibited the carrying of deadly weapons; and all persons were required to retire to their homes by eight o'clock in the evening.

The negroes in West Tennessee were deserting their late owners and collecting in large numbers in Memphis. The superintendent of the freedmen in Memphis had notified them to return and seek employment, or they would be imprisoned as vagabonds. General Gordon Granger, in Texas, and Custer, in Louisiana, had also notified to the negroes idling about military posts or encampments that they would be pressed into the Quartermaster's service or imprisoned until employment could be provided for them.

A fight between Federal and paroled Confederate soldiers occurred at Rock Springs, Tennessee, on the 8th, in which three of the combatants were killed and seven seriously wounded. An encounter between a Federal and a Confederate soldier, at Miller's station, Missouri, on the 16th, is also reported, in which the Confederate shot and killed the Federal.

The notification of the surrender of the ram Stonewall to the United States was made to Mr. Seward by the Spanish Ambassador on the 14th ult. Mr. Seward replied that the ram would be immediately removed from Havannah, and that the funds advanced by the Captain-General of Cuba to pay the Confederate crew would be reimbursed to the Spanish Government.

Some interesting details as to the state of Mr. Jefferson Davis's health and general condition are given in the subjoined despatch:—

Fortress Monroe, July 17.

From all the sources of information I am able to command, there is no doubt Jeff Davis is slowly, but surely, declining in health from his protracted imprisonment. He will not even avail himself of the opportunities of exercise afforded him, and he has a space of about 20 ft. by 20 ft. he could walk about in if he chose; but all the long hours of each weary day he sits at the barred embrasure of his casemate, sullen, silent, speechless. With his chin alternately resting on one hand and then on both, he looks unintermittently through this opening. Where rest his eyes and what thoughts stir that brain no one can tell. Before him are the bay and the passing ships, and the Rip Raps, growing each day into a wondrous work of impregnable strength; and beyond, the blue sky and fleeting clouds, and wild sea birds enjoying the boundless freedom of the outer air. And mingling with these sights comes that perpetual, mournful refrain, the sound of the waves dashing upon the beach. Here he is a prisoner, and under what circumstances and under what terrible charges hanging over him. Not a moment is he left alone—not a moment passes that he is not under the vigilant eye of soldiers. There is no egress through those strong iron bars. There is no escape through this cordon of muskets. There can be no attempt at rescue from without. What wonder is it that that form has grown more emaciated, those cheeks more sunken, those eyes more lustrous, that brow more wrinkled—his hair whiter, his words fewer, his spirits sunk in perpetual gloom? Health has left him, hope is gone; that proud spirit is broken, and the end is not far. I am writing no fancy sketch. I have been told to-day that Jeff Davis, if he keeps up his present prison habits and despondency, will not live six weeks longer. Yesterday Mr. Davis requested permission for a chaplain to see him. This is the second request of this kind he has made since his arrival. Chaplain Kerfoot was sent to his cell. He greeted the chaplain with warmth. "It is to you and to this book (holding the Bible in his hand) I must look," he said, "for consolation now." The chaplain talked to him of his spiritual condition, read to him passages from the Bible, and prayed with him. After the chaplain left, Davis appeared to be in much better spirits than he has been in for some time past. He reads the Bible morning and evening. Recently, I am told, he abstracts these readings much more than at the commencement of his imprisonment. He confesses his belief in the Bible, and professes to have made it the ruling guide of his life. It is evident that he does not fancy being confined exclusively to reading the Scriptures, for he sometimes clamours for a different style of literature; but his request in this regard thus far has not been complied with. This refusal to extend his reading privileges, and not permitting him to write to his wife or see letters from her, have formed the burden of his complaints. If permission were given him to have all the books he wished he could not read much himself, and for the comfort derived from them would have to rely mainly on others reading to him. One eye is now almost totally blind, and the other gives indication of rapidly becoming so. He has complained lately of seeing objects double. He still wears his goggles during the daytime. Life in prison is necessarily monotonous. With few it has ever been more so than with Davis. He rises pretty early, usually at five o'clock in the morning. He takes a bath the first thing, using salt water at first and winding up with fresh water. His bathing facilities are limited, consisting of a common washtub, half filled with salt water, a wash-basin of fresh water, coarse towels, and soap. An army blanket he converts into a temporary screen and bathes behind this. He is not very particular about his toilet, the fashion of combing his hair, and all that; but is exact upon the subject of cleanliness of his under-clothing, sheets, towels, &c. Bath and toilet completed, he reads his Bible, and at half-past eight has his breakfast. This is served him from Dr. Craven's table. The statement in some of the papers that a daughter of Dr. Craven brings him his food is incorrect. A soldier brings his meals to him. Tea, toast, and an egg or two, or broiled steak, usually make up his breakfast. His appetite is very variable.

General Miles may call in to see him and pass a few words, or the officer of the guard may have something to say; for only these two, except his physician and Craven, and the chaplain of course, when he calls, are allowed to speak to him. In conversation he has betrayed an anxiety and even determination to discuss the subject of the impossibility of ever convicting him of treason. He throws himself back upon the question of State rights as his main point of defence. For some time, finding that the discussion was all on his own side, he has kept silent on the subject. Except these interruptions, in the way of conversation, which, it will be understood, are not daily by any means, he passes most of his time till half-past three p.m., his dinner-hour, in looking at the window. He smokes his pipe occasionally, but is no great smoker. He says that much smoking makes him too nervous. After dinner he passes the time as before. He has supper at half-past eight o'clock, and then directly goes to bed. He sleeps pretty soundly, but more so formerly than latterly. At first the light kept burning in the room all night troubled him, but he has become used to it and makes no complaint on the subject now, as perhaps he knows it would do no good if he did. In previous letters I have described Mr. Davis's quarters and the guard placed over him. Both continue the same as at first. He has been urgent to have the guard in his own room, the rear room of the casemate—two are kept constantly in both front and back room, and an officer with them—removed and kept in the front room. But his entreaty was of no avail. Next he desired that the guard in his own room might be allowed to stand instead of being kept walking; but here, too, his request has not been complied with.

SOUTH AMERICA.

We have intelligence from Rio de Janeiro to the 9th ult., and from Montevideo to the 24th of June. Fighting, both on land and water, had taken place between the Paraguayans and the Brazilians and their allies. The Paraguayans, with eight steamers and six gun-boats, mounting 68 and 80 pounders, assisted by a battery consisting of thirty rifled guns and 2000 men, attacked the Brazilian fleet near Corrientes. The engagement lasted nine hours, and resulted in the loss of four steamers, six gun-boats, the Admiral killed, and 1700 killed, wounded, and missing on the part of the Paraguayans. The Brazilian loss consisted of one steamer and 300 men. The Paraguayans had invaded Brazil with 7000 men, and taken and sacked San Borja. The Emperor of Brazil had gone to join the army.

SCHLESWIG AND HOLSTEIN.

IMPORTANT DECLARATION OF BAVARIA, SAXONY, AND HESSE.

In the sitting of the Federal Diet, on the 27th ult., the representatives of Bavaria, Saxony, and Hesse presented the following declaration:—

When the Federal Assembly, on the 7th of December, 1864, resolved to regard the execution in the duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg as terminated, and to cede the possession and administration of these duchies to the Governments of Austria and Prussia, it was decidedly in the hope and expectation, frequently expressed, that the time had arrived when the duchies should be restored to a regular status recognised upon all sides as their right, and to independence under their own hereditary Prince, and that the attainment of this object would be facilitated by that resolution. The Federal Assembly gave expression to this expectation by the resolution of the 6th of April. It has, nevertheless, not been realised on account of frequent differences of opinion having arisen respecting the right of inheritance and the future relations of these countries to Prussia. It cannot, however, be concealed that a longer duration of the provisional state of things has the most prejudicial effects upon the duchies themselves, as well as upon their relations with the German Confederation. In this respect it must particularly be pointed out that the Constitutional activity of the Legislature of the duchies is at a standstill; that their voice in the Federal Diet is suspended, and that the Federal contingents to be furnished by them have not been fixed. In this state of things it appears to be as judicious as it is right and politic to claim the co-operation of freely-elected representatives of the countries whose weal or woe is at stake, in order to settle the questions still in suspense. In this manner might be introduced and developed—in so far as a general representation of both duchies to be convoked—the most natural means to give security to the historical and inseparable connection between the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein and protection to both—viz., the admission of Schleswig into the German Confederation. At the same time, a possibility would be presented for the Federal Assembly by renouncing its claims for compensation for the costs of the execution in Holstein and Lauenburg, and by participating in the war expenses incurred in Schleswig, to relieve the financial position of the duchies from the burdens which weigh so heavily upon them if they had to bear them alone. It has certainly, therefore, given real satisfaction to all German Governments to have seen it stated that negotiations have been carried on between the Governments of Austria and Prussia respecting the convocation of representatives of the duchies. On the one hand, the Federal Assembly have all the more reason to give this intention their approval and fullest consideration, since it promises itself a welcome and valuable basis for future discussions and resolutions from the manifestations to be expected from these representatives; and, on the other hand, the hope is justifiable that the Governments of Austria and Prussia will not reject the above-mentioned views. Confident of this fact, the Governments of Bavaria, Saxony, and Hesse move that the Federal Assembly resolve—1. To ask the Governments of Austria and Prussia what steps they have taken, or intend to take, to bring about a solution of the still pending questions relative to the duchies; especially whether they intend to convocate a general representation, elected by free votes, of the duchy of Holstein, in common with a similar representation of the duchy of Schleswig, to co-operate in the solution of these questions; and at what period this convocation, to hasten which has been shown in the declarations to be most desirable, may be expected to take place. 2. To request the same Governments to take steps for the admission of the duchy of Schleswig into the German Confederation. 3. In this event, and as soon as the confident expectation expressed in the resolution of the Diet of the 5th of April has been realised, to declare its readiness to renounce its claims to the compensation for the cost of execution in Holstein and Lauenburg, and participate in bearing the expenses of the war in Schleswig, either by the Diet in its entirety bearing the expenses of the war or by a proportionate amount being assumed by those States of the Confederation who took no part in the war.

The resolution was referred to the committee on Holstein affairs to report thereon.

The *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna says:—"We learn from good authority that, in consequence of a resolution adopted by the Prussian Ministers in Council at Regensburg, and the propositions since made by Count Blome to the King of Prussia at Gastein, the common government of the duchies by the two great German Powers will continue. The competence and power of each have already been fixed, and a conference will shortly take place between the two Cabinets for the definitive settlement of the question of the duchies."

The Austrian Commissioner in Schleswig-Holstein has protested formally against the arbitrary arrests and expulsions of journalists and others made by the Prussian military authorities.

Austria has proposed the following arrangement for the Schleswig-Holstein question:—

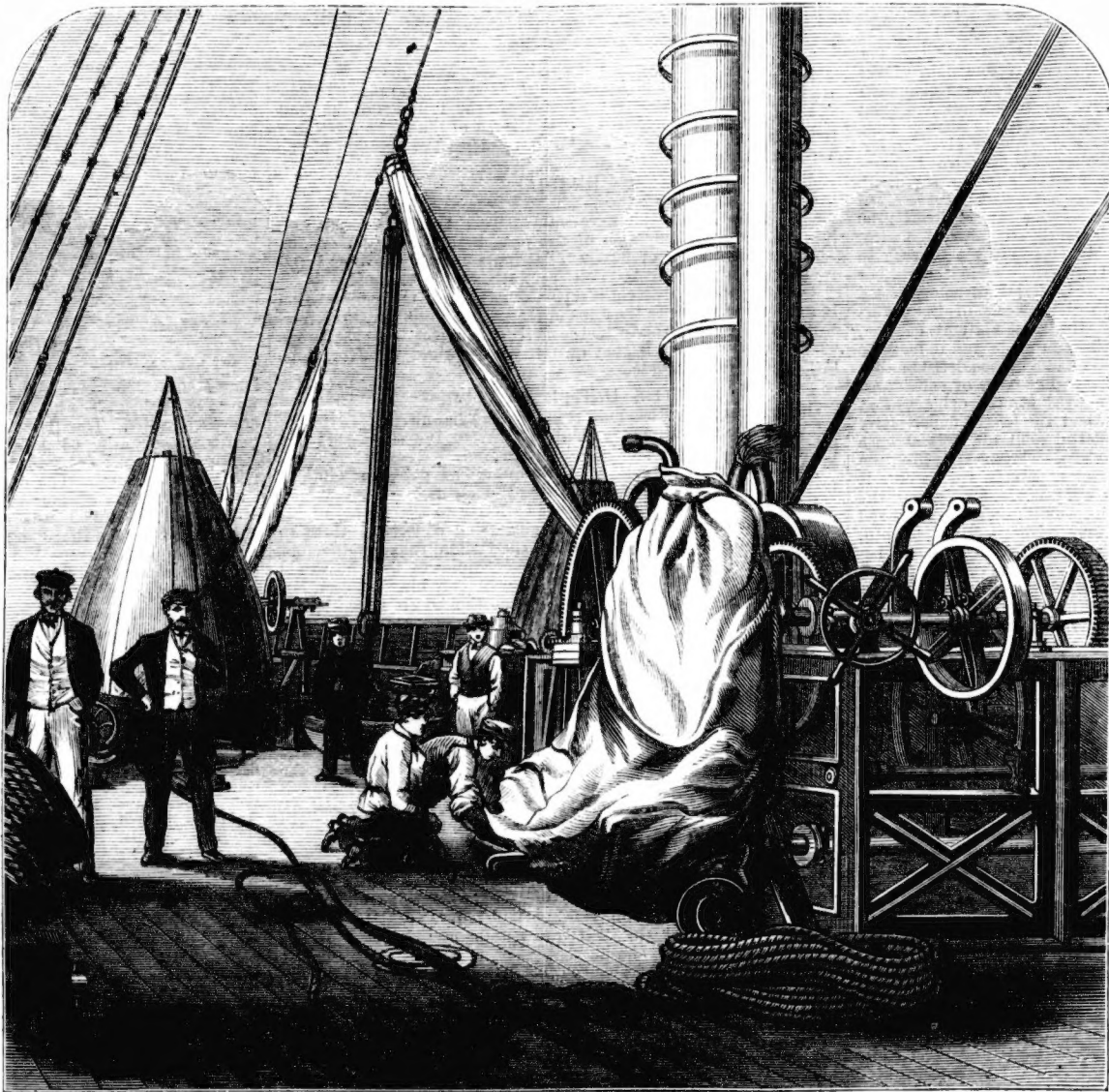
She consents, first, to the acquisition of Kiel by Prussia. 2. To the occupation of Rendsburg by Prussia, under certain conditions. 3. Austria also consents to further territorial acquisitions by Prussia, provided a corresponding acquisition of territory be granted to Austria by a rectification of the Silesian frontier. 4. With regard to the other Prussian claims relative to the marine and the postal and telegraphic administrations in the duchies, Austria will allow the settlement of the same to be arranged between Prussia and the future Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. Prussia has proposed the installation of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg as future Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. Austria, before consenting to the choice of the Grand Duke of Oldenburg, demands that Prussia shall first declare her definitive resolution to continue to support this proposal and shall not at any future time revert to the scheme of annexation.

THE *PARIS Débats*, the other morning, gravely informed its readers that "le grand Sheriff de Londres" proclaimed "the Hon. A. Egerton, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Gladstone duly elected at Newton!"

GALLANT CONDUCT OF A RAILWAY GUARD.—On Saturday last a telegram was received at Mirfield station, one of the busiest junctions on the Lancashire and Yorkshire line, from Cleckheaton, to the effect that twenty-three trucks, heavily laden with timber, had passed that station from Low Moor without engine or guard-van. A number of waggons had been placed in the siding, and the timber-train, not being properly spragged, started off, and by the time it reached Cleckheaton was running at a very rapid rate. On receipt of the telegram the line was cleared by a gang of workmen, and the train came dashing towards Mirfield station at a great speed. A guard, named George Barlow, who happened to be on the platform, jumped upon the runaway train and succeeded in bringing it to a stand by applying the fixed breaks to several waggons. But for Barlow's gallant conduct a terrible collision might have taken place with a passenger-train which was momentarily expected.

GREAT EXPLOSION AT GENEVA.

Our Engraving represents the scene of a terrible explosion which has recently taken place at Geneva, at the factory of arms, in the street adjoining the Môle. On the afternoon of July 8, at about half-past two, the boiler of a 12-horse power engine, which is the motive power of the factory, burst with a terrific explosion, blowing up a great part of the building, and especially the workshop on the first floor, which was devoted to the joinery and the moulders' rooms. Masses of the debris were thrown with such violence that a house a hundred paces off had its entire front riddled, as though it had been fired at by artillery, while its roof was smashed in by the fragments of the boiler falling upon it. It is said that twelve persons fell victims to the accident, two of the number being dead, and the rest seriously injured; the stoker (Comte), who leaves a wife and five children, was killed on the spot, and it is supposed that he had fallen asleep and so neglected to supply the boiler with water. About two hundred workmen were employed in this factory, and such was the violence of the explosion that the greater part of them were thrown down, even in the more distant parts of the building. Most of them were instantaneously aware of the cause of the accident; and, after having run out to escape the danger, returned to render assistance. On the arrival of the fire-engines, with those who came to see what help was needed, the place presented an extraordinary appearance. The factory, in the form of a parallelogram, occupies a large courtyard; to the left of the gate are workshops, surmounted by towers; and to the right the bullet and bomb factory. At the back stood the main building, containing the steam-engine and the moulding-rooms. It is this building which has been destroyed, the roof and the floors having been completely blown out; while a tall chimney, leaning across the wall in the rear, menaced those who came to the aid of the sufferers and worked in



THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE: THE WINDING-UP MACHINE ON BOARD THE GREAT EASTERN.

the ruins, amidst the fragments of masonry and broken machinery, in order to rescue some victim from a painful death. Several guardsmen were placed at the gates in order to keep back the crowd

that would have hindered the operations of the sappers, who, under the command of Colonel Mercier, accomplished their work with wonderful precision and dispatch. An hour after the explosion something like order was restored, the wounded were carried into the great workshop, where they received careful attention from several surgeons, assisted by the priests, who were amongst the first to repair to the scene of the accident. After their wounds had been dressed the sufferers were removed to the hospital.

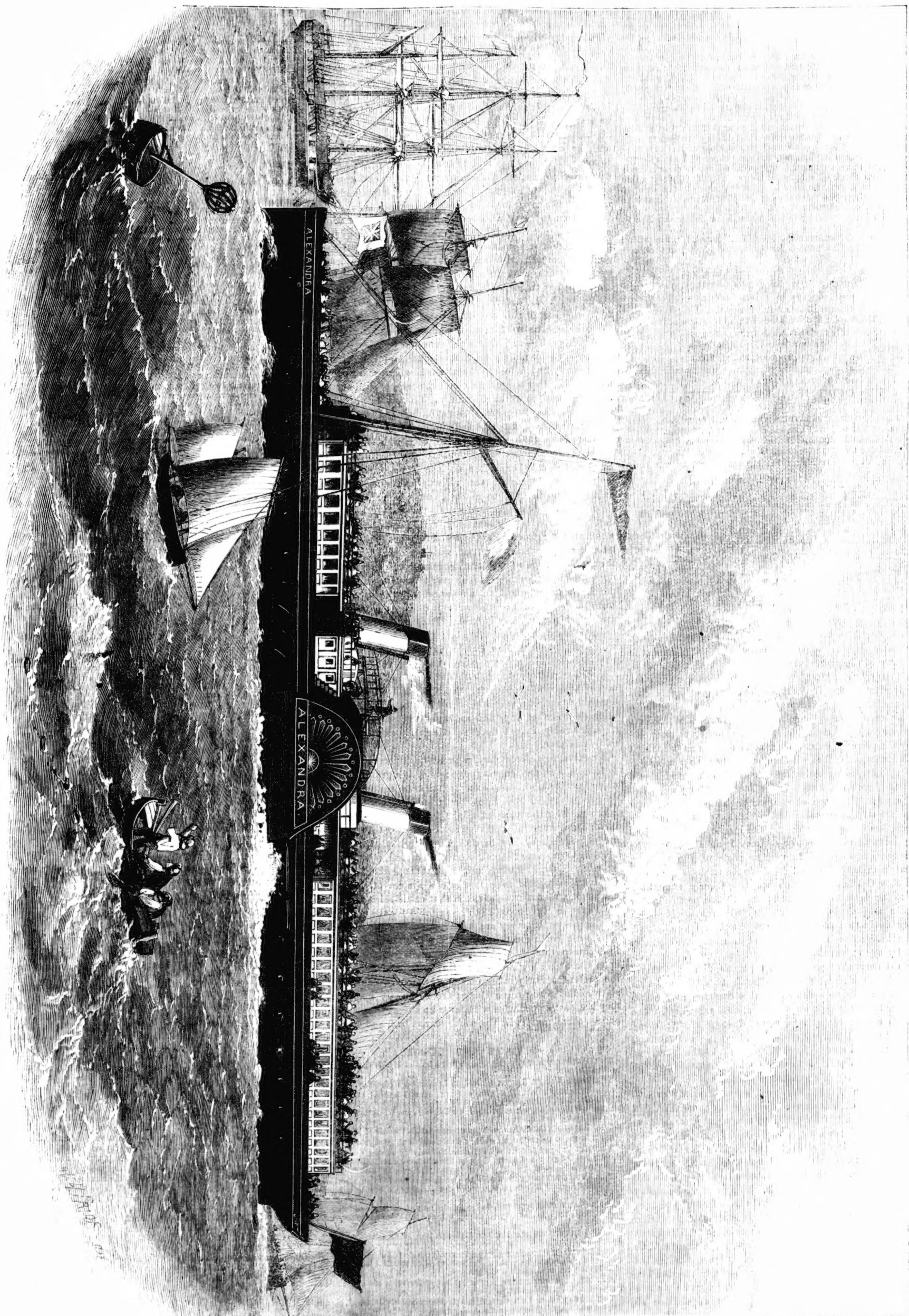
THE NEW SALOON STEAMER ALEXANDRA.

DOUBTLESS many of our readers have been to America, and those who have not are by this time very familiar with those high apparently floating houses, in the shape of steam-boats, devoted to the river pleasure-traffic in that country, but more particularly the class which travel on the Mississippi. Those who have been on board of them have experienced the comforts of the large and commodiously fitted-up deck-saloon, as also the enjoyable promenade upon its deck. A company has been formed in London for the purpose of affording the people of England an opportunity of experiencing some of those comforts of pleasure-steaming which our Transatlantic cousins have so successfully carried out; and the Illustration upon page 69 represents the Alexandra, the first of several such vessels, intended to ply on the Thames below bridge, as also to carry the citizens to and fro from London Bridge to Chelsea. We are much pleased to see so great an innovation upon the old conventional style which has so long existed, and feel sure the system needs but a trial to be approved.

A sail to Gravesend by this well fitted-up steamer is now a most enjoyable thing, and not only have the directors endeavoured to study the comfort and convenience of the passengers, but every luxury in the way of refreshments is amply and elegantly provided at the most moderate rates. Mr. Watts, of great celebrity as a caterer



EFFECTS OF THE EXPLOSION AT THE ARMS FACTORY, GENEVA.



THE SALOON STEAM-PACKET COMPANY'S NEW SHIP ALEXANDRA.

of good things, is the steward; and the mere mention of that must satisfy the most fastidious tastes.

The Alexandra's chief saloon is upwards of 60 ft. long by 19 ft. wide, carpeted all over with a pattern of elegant design. Seats of crimson velvet run along the entire sides, and lounges, covered with the same material, are in the centre. The windows which light the interior are fifty-six in number, and each is hung with crimson damask curtains, giving the whole the appearance of a drawing-room.

The upper deck affords an uninterrupted promenade of nearly 200 ft. in length; and, though so elevated, no inconvenience arises from the smoke, the company using smokeless coal. Elegant and wide staircases, communicating with the deck below, are placed between the funnels.

The lower deck, or dining-saloon, is also replete with everything necessary, and is well ventilated and lighted.

An experienced captain has the management of the ship, and an orderly and well-selected crew assist; and it may be well to state that, so determined is the company to insure the comfort of everyone, that an officer in uniform is placed on board, whose sole duty is to walk round the ship during the voyage and see that no order is abused, as also to check any rudeness or vulgarity. We hail this arrangement as a great improvement, as it ensures to the delicate and more orderly passenger that ease and pleasure which is not to be met with on other steamers.

There is a large smoking-saloon forward for those who like to enjoy a "weed."

The Alexandra's measurement is—240 ft. long, 22 ft. 9 in. wide; horse power, 140. She is flat-bottomed, and the deeper in the water the safer.

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THE CATTLE DISEASE.

"THERE'S a murrain among the cattle, Sir; that's the cause of it; and it will be worse, too, if something isn't done!" said a respectable butcher, whom we questioned the other day as to the cause of the high, and advancing, price of meat. It is, unfortunately, too true: there is serious disease among the cattle; and sheep on the Sussex Downs, and probably elsewhere, are exhibiting symptoms of the disease known as *variola ovina*, or sheep-pox, which was so fatal in Wiltshire a few years ago. This matter is of serious import to everyone. Already the price of butchers' meat is so high as to make it difficult for large families with limited incomes to purchase it. Should this disease spread and be as fatal as it has hitherto proved, the humbler classes will ere long be utterly unable to obtain a meat diet even once a week. Two thousand head of cattle are said to have died in the London district from this disease in less than a month; and the loss to the cowkeepers of the metropolis is already estimated at £30,000. The disease has shown itself in various parts of the country, and was manifestly present in animals exhibited for sale in the New Cattle Market this week. Clearly something ought to be done to stop the spread of this pestilence, or the flocks and herds of the country will run a grave risk of being decimated at least, if not practically annihilated. We cannot afford to lose so essential an element of human food, if by any means the mischief can be averted. Englishmen would thrive but poorly on a vegetable diet; and therefore it behoves all Englishmen to bestir themselves and do what in them lies to avert so great a calamity as the disappearance from amongst us of the national roast-beef. The affair does not concern the owners of stock alone: every individual in the community is affected by it. It is, in fact, likely to prove a national calamity; and to the nation at large, therefore, as well as to the stockmasters, belongs the duty of endeavouring to check the mischief.

The high price of meat, besides, is not the only evil to which we are exposed from this disease. It has hitherto, in London, principally attacked dairymen's cows, and cows suffering from disease must yield diseased milk, so that an indispensable article of daily food, especially for children, may to a large extent be deleterious, and so sow the seeds of dangerous disease. It is said that cows suffering from the malady do not yield milk; but this, we suspect, applies to an advanced stage of the disease, and serious mischief may be done ere the lacteal flow ceases. Again, there is a great temptation to owners of diseased cattle to have them slaughtered and sent to market, and, as wherever there is temptation there will be some persons who will yield to it, large quantities of diseased meat are likely to find their way into the market, which all the vigilance of the inspectors may be unable to detect. Here we have another source of disease to our own bodies, for we know well that unwholesome food is certain to produce an unhealthy state of body. We bestir ourselves to provide checks, preventives, and cures whenever we hear of the approach of cholera; but here is an element of disease more subtle, more

difficult to guard against, and, probably, more difficult to counteract, than even the dreaded Asiatic cholera. Disease and death, in fact, may lurk in every drop of milk and in every bit of meat we consume. Is it, then, too much to say that it is the duty of everyone to aid to the utmost whatever efforts may be made to check the ravages of the prevailing cattle plague? Mr. Gamgee, of the Veterinary College, Chelsea, recommends the creation of a fund from which to compensate the owners of cattle which it may be necessary to destroy in order to prevent the spread of contagion; and this is a way in which all may assist in the work. If we cannot take an active part in the effort to eradicate the disorder, we can all subscribe to the funds needful for prosecuting the work; and, by compensating individual losses, remove temptation to conceal the disease and to send infected animals, or their carcasses, to market. This course proved eminently successful with the sheep-pox in Wiltshire; why should it not now with the cattle disease?

It seems to be admitted on all hands that the disorder is not of native origin, but is imported with foreign cattle from the Continent. It is extremely infectious, the slightest contact with an animal suffering from it—nay, even its breath, the exhalations from its body, the ground on which it has trodden—being sufficient to communicate the disorder to healthy stock. Perfect separation of the tainted from the sound, and the destruction of animals in which the disease has so far advanced as to make all chance of cure hopeless—and this is the case at a very early stage of the malady—are plainly the first steps to be taken. But this can scarcely be left to individual stockowners, many of whom may have neither the means, conveniences, nor skill necessary to accomplish the work effectually. Co-operation, therefore, and a system of general inspection by qualified persons, should obviously be resorted to. Other measures will readily suggest themselves. No one who has seen a cargo of foreign cattle brought to the landing-stages at Blackwall and other points on the Thames, or who has looked at the state of the railway-trucks in which the animals are conveyed to market, can wonder that disease should exist or be propagated among them. The holds of the cattle-boats are reeking, steaming, fetid dens of impurity, in which the poor creatures are huddled together for hours, sometimes for days, without air, food, water, or ventilation. Neither the vessels nor the railway-trucks seem—so far as we have had opportunities of judging—to be ever thoroughly cleaned and purified between one load and another; and, in these circumstances, it would be no marvel if disease were engendered among perfectly healthy animals. But if one tainted member be in the herd, contagion must be intensified and spread like wildfire. Even the New Cattle Market itself, spacious and airy as it is, is not, as we ourselves can vouch, so carefully attended to as it ought to be. There seems to be a woeful lack of water in it, both for the animals to drink and for cleansing the pens, which should be thoroughly sluiced out after each market day, and so kept sweet and wholesome. This, assuredly, is not done so effectually as it ought and easily might be.

We have, in this country, a great objection to official interference with private enterprise; and, as a general rule, the objection is sound. But exceptional cases are not amenable to general rules, and must be treated in an exceptional manner. The Government might, by order in council, stop importation from infected districts on the Continent, as they are empowered by law to do. They might also appoint inspectors to examine the cattle on their arrival, provide places to which diseased animals might be taken, either for cure or for destruction, and even institute a system of quarantine. Above all, care ought to be taken that cattle-ships and cattle-trucks are so constructed as to be suitable for the conveyance of stock, and that they are kept in a thoroughly clean and wholesome condition. In short, were more care, more cleanliness, more water, and better accommodation bestowed upon the animals which are to furnish us with food, neither the present nor any other cattle plague need cause serious alarm. But while these things are so grossly neglected as they are, cattle pestilence will never be absent from the land, and butchers' meat will always be scarce, bad, and dear.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has accepted a bust of Mr. Cobden, presented by Mrs. Cobden.

THE EMIR ABD-EL-KADER arrived in London on Wednesday.

THE MARRIAGE of Lord Henry Scott, second son of the Duke of Buccleuch, and the Hon. Cecily Stuart Wortley, youngest daughter of the late Lord Wharfedale, was solemnised, on Tuesday, at Westminster Abbey, with full choral service.

THE POTATO BLIGHT has made its appearance in the Isle of Wight.

SNAKES are in great demand at New York, and fetch good prices.

MR. SCULLY has raised an objection to the validity of the Cork county election, on the ground that the Deputy Sheriffs were not £50 freeholders, as required by law.

THE OPEN-SPACES QUESTION is to be taken in hand by an association in which Mr. Shaw Lefevre, the member for Reading, will take a leading part.

SOME WANTON SCOUNDRELS destroyed the nets of a number of fishermen at Drogheda, the other day, by throwing vitriol upon them while they hung up to dry.

MISS MENKEN and the Brothers Davenport sailed on Saturday last for America.

THE SCOTTISH REPRESENTATIVE PEERS were elected at Edinburgh last week. The only change was the substitution of the Earl of Leven and Melville in place of the Earl of Strathmore.

A FLOCK OF BUTTERFLIES, four miles long, passed over one of the inland towns of California recently.

THE THEATRE OF BRESLAU, Silesia, has been entirely destroyed by fire, no part of the scenery or properties being saved.

A CLANDESTINE JOURNAL now appears regularly at Rome, under the title of *Roma dei Romani* (Rome of the Romans).

A BOILER BURST at the Iron Shipbuilding Company's Works, at Millwall, on Monday, and severely injured three men, whose recovery is doubtful.

THE COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS offers two prizes of ten guineas each—one for the best anthem, with organ accompaniment; the other, for the best organ piece.

PRINCE ARTHUR inaugurated the statue of his late father, which has been erected at Tenby, on Wednesday.

AT THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS, South Kensington, last Saturday, the show of ferns and fruit was one of great beauty and interest. The flowers in the grounds were at their highest perfection, and the scene was enlivened by an admirable selection of music played by the band of the Royal Horse Guards.

LADY GWENDOLINE ST. MAUR, youngest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, was married to Sir John Ramsden, on Wednesday, at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

THE TOWN OF GHENT is preparing an exhibition of works of art, which will open on August 15, at the Palace of the University.

GEORGE BROOMFIELD, who was sentenced to death for the murder of Mrs. Colborne, at Shirley, has been reprieved.

A VERY FINE SKULL of the rhinoceros (*leporhinus*, Cav.) has recently been found in the Uphall brickfield, Ilford, and in close proximity to the spot where the skull and tusks of the mammoth were discovered.

A MARRIAGE has been arranged between the Hon. Hallyburton Campbell, second son of the late Lord Campbell and of the Baroness of Stratheden, and Miss Beresford Hope, eldest daughter of Mr. Beresford Hope, M.P., and Lady Mildred Beresford Hope.

THE REVOLUTION IN ECUADOR HAS BEEN QUELLED. The President, Garcia Moreno, ordered twenty-seven members of the Opposition to be shot in the market-place.

THE PRISONER BENGE, who was convicted of manslaughter in respect of the Staplehurst railway accident, has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment without hard labour.

THE ENGLISH SQUADRON which will go to Cherbourg will consist of six ironclads, representing different and interesting specimens of this order of craft, among which will be the Royal Sovereign and the Minotaur. The Edgar, Admiral Dacres, will accompany the squadron.

DR. PRITCHARD, the Glasgow murderer, was executed on Friday week. He admitted the justice of his sentence, and died with firmness. Eighty thousand persons were present.

THE POLICE RETURNS of last year for England and Wales give the number of persons living by crime at 116,749—namely, 23,298 thieves, 3188 receivers, 30,237 suspected persons, 31,932 vagrants, and 28,094 prostitutes; but there seems little proof of the accuracy of the figures.

THE MUSICIANS belonging to the orchestra of the Grand Opera at Paris have sent to the manager a long memoir setting forth a great number of reasons which induce them to ask for an augmentation of salary to the extent of 65,000*l.* a year for all the members of their body.

MEAT SAFES are now used in which there is a convenience for placing ice, and by which joints of meat can be hung in them long enough to get tender, as in the winter time.

THE LEVEL OF THE DEAD SEA, often disputed, has been settled by Captain Wilson, R.E., who left England last September as head of a surveying expedition in Palestine, paid for by subscription. The water after the freshets is 1289*ft.* 5 in., and in the summer 1298 *ft.* lower, than the Mediterranean.

THE HIGH-LEVEL STATION of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company, opposite the western entrance to the Crystal Palace, was opened on Tuesday, on the occasion of the Odd Fellow's Fête, and the visitors to that place of recreation extensively availed themselves of the accommodation it afforded.

A "MOUNTAIN OF SILVER," or at all events a mountain containing vast quantities of the metal, has been discovered in Nevada, the State recently admitted into the American Union. Its name is Silver Peak; it is east of San Francisco, and about seventy miles south of Austin, and twelve immensely rich lodes have already been opened.

A DISASTROUS FIRE occurred in Bethnal-green-road, on Saturday morning. It originated on the premises of a cabinetmaker, and extended to the neighbouring workshops and houses, occasioning a frightful destruction of property and scenes of deplorable distress.

MR. W. H. SMITH, the founder of the well-known firm W. H. Smith and Co., newspaper agents and publishers, died, at Bournemouth, at the age of seventy-three, on Friday week. The deceased commenced the business of newsagent, in a comparatively humble way, some fifty years ago, and had retired about seven years, leaving to his son, Mr. W. H. Smith, the entire management.

THE ANNUAL ROWING-MATCH FOR "DOGGETTS COAT AND BADGE" came off on Tuesday, on the course from Swan Pier at London Bridge to the Old Swan at Chelsea. The first prize, including the famous coat and badge, was won, apparently with little difficulty, by Wood, a young waterman, of Mill Stairs, Bermondsey.

MR. SPRAGUE, surgeon, Ashburton, has been acquitted of the charge of attempting to poison his wife and her father, mother, and servant.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSE, the town residence of Lord Palmerston, was broken into on Saturday, and robbed of £800 worth of diamonds, jewellery, and other articles. The noble Premier was not at home, and the persons in charge of the house seem to have been "caught napping," which their master never is, the thief or thieves having entered by an area window, which had been left invitingly open.

CAPTAIN CAMERON, her Britannic Majesty's Consul in Abyssinia, has, it is reported, been relieved of the fetters in which he was long arbitrarily confined, and his complete release is shortly expected. King Theodore still keeps fettered hand and foot MM. Stern and Rosenthal, the German Protestant missionaries. Mr. Palgrave, the author of "Travels in Eastern and Central Arabia," has been commissioned by Government to proceed to Abyssinia to seek out our countrymen and other Europeans in captivity, and if possible to effect their release.

A LARGE SUNFISH has just been captured by some fishermen at Tenby. The fish gave the fishermen an exciting chase, but they ultimately succeeded in capturing it with gaffs and bathooks, and then it was towed on shore to the beach. The weight of the fish was about 12 cwt., and it was 5 ft. in diameter. In swimming, it turns upon itself like a wheel, which renders it very difficult to catch. The fish, it appears, grows to as large a size as 12 ft. in diameter and about 1 ton in weight, and it is to be found in nearly all seas.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE number of new members returned is about 180. I make it 184. I arrive at this result by counting the men with asterisks before their names; but I observe that one man is thus marked as a new member who was in the last Parliament—to wit, Earl Percy; and there may be more blunders. It would be easy, by more closely scrutinising the list, to attain accuracy; but it is not worth while. Say 184. This is a large number. But, though these 184 were not in the last Parliament, some of them are not new to Parliamentary life. There are amongst the 184 nineteen men who have been members within the last ten years; and I suspect that there are others who were members before my special acquaintance with the House began. Mr. Speaker, then, and the other officers of the House, and the reporters will have to learn the names of about 160 men. At first there will be some little confusion, as usual. Jones will find his speech attributed to Robinson, &c.; and Green, the Liberal, will see his name, to his horror, in the division-list amongst the Conservatives; and Brown, the Conservative, will, to his disgust, see his immediately following Bright; and there will be letters to the *Times*, and cancelling of official lists, &c. It will take a month or six weeks to set the Parliamentary machinery in good working order.

"After defeat, accept your position and make the most of it," is good philosophy, and it is but simple justice to the Conservatives to say that they have adopted this philosophy. Mr. Disraeli struck the key-note, and all our Conservative writers and speakers have tuned their instruments to the leader's fiddle. Nay, some think that, if they have not got a majority on paper, they will find when they come to measure their strength with the Government, that the Conservative force will be very nearly a match for its opponents. "True, on paper the Liberals number some 368, whilst we can count only 290; we allow that; but, then, how united we are, and how disorganised are our enemies! Our 290 form a compact, resolute, and reliable body of troops, who will stand shoulder to shoulder in any division. But what a motley crew is the Liberal army!" And, no doubt, there is some truth in all this; and very often we shall find the Liberals helping the Conservatives to beat the Government, and Conservatives joining Whigs to save it from defeat, as we have often seen heretofore. But let not the Conservatives lay the flattering unction to their souls that, in case of a struggle for office, there will be any serious division in the Liberal camp. This they will not see. However disorganised the Liberal army may be, let but the cry be raised, "The Government is in danger!" and at once the Liberals will close their ranks; unless, indeed, the Government shall have been guilty of something very bad indeed. In short, the truth seems to be this: On a testing division the Government will have a majority of at least sixty; whereas, on the 8th of July, 1864, on the Danish question, it had a majority of only eighteen. This is the real state of the case. The Conservatives are a sufficiently strong body to form a powerful and useful Opposition, but they must give

up all hopes of marching over to the right hand of the Speaker at present.

Mr. Pope Hennessy will not accept his defeat quietly. He means to be in Parliament yet, by some means or other. He will petition against the return of Sir Patrick O'Brien, of course. That he is fully resolved on; and he has not the slightest doubt that he shall reverse the decision of the Sheriff, oust Sir Patrick, and take his seat. Brave words, these; but between words and actions, in such a case as this, there is a great gulf, which can only be crossed by a bridge of gold, and of this material Mr. Hennessy confessedly has none. "But there is the Carlton Club Fund." Ah! but I suspect that much that is said about this fund is mythical. If there was a large fund two months ago, the balance must be very small now; and, moreover, I doubt whether the managers of that fund would consent to spend it in prosecuting a petition to obtain a seat for Mr. Hennessy; for you see there is now a doubt in the Conservative mind whether Mr. Hennessy did not do the cause more harm than good. Nay, some go so far as to say that he has ruined it. On the whole, then, I think that Mr. Hennessy will have to accept his position with what philosophy he may be able to muster. Clearly, he cannot petition without money, and a lumping sum of it too; for King's County is a long way off, and, if a petition be prosecuted, a score or two of witnesses must be brought thence. And then think of the cost of the keep of the said witnesses here in London, and the fees to counsel, and last, not least, that terrible after-clap, Messrs. Quirk, Gammon, and Snap's bill of costs. Why, that alone, I venture to say, would amount to more than the fee-simple of "Ballyhennessy" is worth, whatever that name may designate, whether a barony, a township, a country seat, or a mere cottage.

There are, then, we will say, 160 entirely new men in Parliament, and 184 of the old members gone. First, then, we know what we have lost. We have lost, amongst others, Mr. Hennessy, Mr. Augustus Smith; Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, ex-Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Lawson, with his permissive bill; Mr. Somes, and his Sunday question; Mr. Walter, and his long speeches on education; Mr. Frederick Peel, Financial Secretary of the Treasury; Colonel Powell, who used to wheel himself into the house in a chair; Sir Frederick Smith, with his long-winded speeches on guns, ships, and fortifications; Major Beresford (W. B.), the stanch Protestant, who had, though, become almost forgotten; Mr. Cox, famous for his constant attendance, if for nothing else; Mr. Leatham, one of our Radical stars; Mr. Thomas Collins, eccentric and noisy, and little else; Justice Halburton, alias Sam Slick, perhaps the most obstinate old Tory in the house; Lord Alfred Paget, the Queen's Equerry, not otherwise notable; Mr. George Bentinck, whose absence will certainly not be deplored by Mr. Disraeli, if it is by anyone else; Sir Baldwin Leighton, who carried a bill that turned policemen into gamekeepers and made rabbits game; Sir William Miles, the old Protectionist, so well known; Mr. Alderman Rose, who strewed the floor with his whenever he spoke; Mr. Alderman Sidney, who did likewise; Mr. Alderman Copeland, who, though an alderman, didn't; Mr. William Shaw Lindsay, who tried hard to get up a quarrel between England and America, but, happily, couldn't; Sir John Trelawny, one of the honestest Radicals in the House; Mr. Denman, the toughest and longest-winded of lawyers, except, it may be, Mr. Malins, whom we have also lost; Sir William Hayter, so long chief Government whip, but who some years ago resigned the thongs to Mr. Brand and took a baronetcy instead; Sir De Lacy Evans, the hero of a hundred fights; and Sir John Shelley, whom we will not mourn over, seeing that we have John Stuart Mill instead; Vincent Scully, all the powers that watch over the British Parliament be praised! Mr. Vance and Sir Edward Grogan, of whom I said enough last week; Mr. Longfield, who attacked so savagely the late Lord Chancellor; Mr. Hassard, a tiresome speaker but a capital chairman of committees; Mr. M'Mahon, ten times more wearisome than Mr. Hassard; Mr. Isaac Butt, the ablest Irish lawyer in the House. These, then, are our principal losses—that is to say, we had these men in Parliament, and now we have them not. But the first thing that strikes me as I survey this list is the small loss of intellectual power which the House of Commons has sustained. There are two or three men gone whom we would be glad to have back, but I doubt whether it would be possible to get up any enthusiasm about a fourth. Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, though by no means a first-class man, certainly ought to be in Parliament. Mr. Leatham, too, is an able man, and an eloquent representative of Radical sentiments, and one is sorry to see that Huddersfield has rejected him. And then there is Isaac Butt, whose absence will certainly be a loss of debating power. But here I have exhausted my list. Then, secondly, I would notice the clean sweep which has been made of our most terrible bores. Vincent Scully is gone, and Augustus Smith and Patrick M'Mahon, and that most mischievous of all bores, Mr. Pope Hennessy. Some of these may be replaced in spirit if not in person out of our 160 new men. But Vincent Scully will never be paralleled. Boredom, in all its wide extent and profound depths, has not another one the like of him. On the whole, then, I venture to hope that the new Parliament will be an improvement on the old. We have lost as above of mental power. We have gained John Stuart Mill, Professor Fawcett, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Torrens. Here, then, is alone an ascertained mass of intellectual power which will considerably more than counterbalance what we have lost, if no more should be developed; and we have got rid of some half dozen bores, one of whom, at all events, can never be paralleled; nay, may we not say two?—surely there cannot be another Pope Hennessy in the world. And, further, there may turn up out of this mass of unknown men, you know, some one or more of mark. Who can tell? At all events, this Parliament will not be worse than its predecessor. I venture to think that it will be considerably better.

In a speech delivered by Mr. Lawson before some members of the United Kingdom Alliance, he uttered these words:—"It is ours, as Mr. John Stuart Mill had recently said, to teach the lesson which is constantly renewed from age to age, and which many persons found it extremely hard to learn—the power of pure, earnest, disinterested conviction." Now, this looks as if Mr. John Stuart Mill were in favour of the views of the United Kingdom Alliance. But this is not so. In his book "On Liberty" he has attacked this society by name, and thus speaks of the principle on which its operations are based:—"So monstrous a principle is far more dangerous than any single interference with liberty. There is no violation of liberty which it would not justify." Indeed, this remarkable book throughout is in spirit entirely against such infringements of liberty of thought and action as the Alliance contemplates.

An International Peace Jubilee Working-men's Exhibition is to be opened at the Crystal Palace on Monday next. This exhibition is designed to celebrate the completion of fifty years of peace between England and France. The display has been organised entirely by working men of the two countries, without any patronage or puffing of any kind, and is not got up as a commercial speculation. The Crystal Palace Company affords space for the exhibition, but the relations between the company and the joint committee are those of landlord and tenant only. The working men who have the management of the affair have determined to adopt a manly and independent course, and, without disrespect to anyone, intend to inaugurate their exhibition themselves. I like this spirit; for why should toadying on one side and patronage on the other be an inevitable feature of all sorts of exhibitions? The committee declare that they will feel honoured to see public men present; but mean to do their own work themselves, without hunting up a man with a handle to his name to do it for them. May I borrow a Yankeeism, and say "Bully for you, Messrs. the Committee!" Deputations from Paris, Lyons, Nantes, Rouen, and other French towns will be present; and I hope the exhibition will be a thorough success.

Mr. T. W. Robertson, author of "David Garrick," "Society," and other dramatic pieces, has just completed a new comedy, which will probably, I understand, be shortly produced at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Liverpool.

Mr. Anthony Trollope has commenced a series of papers descriptive

of holiday travellers in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. The first of the series, which appeared on Thursday, deals with "The Family that Goes Abroad because it's the Thing to Do."

An application by Mr. Swanborough to the Justices at Ramsgate for a license to open a theatre in that town has been rejected unanimously. The edifice which it was proposed to occupy for the purpose is the unconsecrated church of All Souls. During the hearing it was suggested that Mr. Swanborough had not even proposed to remove the steeple previously to commencing his performances.

LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood is unchanged, unchangeable—if Mr. Mill and the Experimentalists will permit us to use the word. You may always go to it for a drink of the fine old Tory tap, and be sure of getting the right article. The number is of fair average merit. "Miss Marjoribanks" is rather better than usual, and, as it must always be called good, that is genuine praise. *Blackwood* says that, if it were possible to get at the private opinions of the ten-pound householders in Westminster, and even in the City, "our conviction is that they would express themselves—by five to three—favourable to a Conservative policy." This is ominous—but of what? What can it point to? That Sir Robert Peel caught the Whigs bathing and stole their clothes, we were long ago told. Can the Tories be going to steal the clothes of the Radicals? "If it were possible to get at the private convictions of the ten-pound householders"—good gracious! If this does not point to the ballot, what does it mean? Our Conservative friends are going in for the ballot, as a means of "getting at the private convictions of the electors." Just conceive Lord Cranbourne talking as Tom Duncombe used to do!—but the world has seen things quite as strange. As the ocean margins alter, men "build where sea-monsters used to hide themselves."

The *Cornhill* is admirable in respect of variety. Every month the character of the contents is changed in a way which may seem easy to outsiders, but which really reflects the greatest honour upon the editor. "Armada" is still good in its way—a most ingenious nightmare of a story; but, however monotonous it may be to keep on praising the same thing month by month, I must once more say, sure of carrying the best readers along with me, that Mrs. Gaskell's "Wives and Daughters" is the "best thing out" in the shape of a story. But one wishes artists would not choose for illustration scenes which are purely disagreeable. Why should Mr. Du Maurier pitch upon the scolding of a young lady for an "illustration" subject? and why should he persist in making the hands of his people like claws or web-feet? I have mentioned this before, and it is a true bill against Mr. Du Maurier. The hands of Cynthia, and in a less degree those of the doctor, in the illustration to "Wives and Daughters," are repulsive.

In *Macmillan*, Mr. I. M. Ludlow—an honoured name wherever intelligence saturated with goodness can make itself loved—begins a "Gallery of American Presidents"—his first group of patriots ranging from Washington to Van Buren. Mr. Francis Galton's papers on "Hereditary Talent and Character" are unquestionably interesting; but I fail to discover anything new in them, and I fail also to discover that the author recognises the extreme limits of his own principles. To ignore them may keep his writing "consistent," but readers who see where a line will lead up to when "produced" will be arrested by an inconsistency which is worse than merely formal. It is, indeed, as Mr. Galton says, a notable fact that "moral monsters" can mix in society for years, just like other people. Mr. Galton instances Townley; but he never struck me as being a "monster," bad as he was. He always contended that a betrothed woman was in the position of a wife, and "belonged" to the other party to the bargain. "Public opinion in America will excuse, in three parts of the world will wholly pardon, in many parts will justify, even in England will extenuate, the slaying of a faithless wife by a husband; why," said Townley, "should all allowance be denied to him who takes the life of a false betrothed?" This pleading is founded on a very base and cruel theory of the relation of a woman to a man, but it is not quite the theory of "a moral monster." The difficulty put by Mr. Galton had occurred to all of us, I suppose, about the wretch Pritchard—a real "moral monster," if ever there was one. That such a being could "mix in society" up to late middle age and make friends is fertile in suggestion as to the constituent elements and guiding standards of "society." His "repentance" is worse than all. The chief thing he felt strongly was love of approbation; his one idea of happiness that of being on simpering, get-up-testimonial terms with everybody. When he found himself out adrift from all sources of human approbation but one, he took to that, and flaunted his fresh "testimonials" (of being approved of by the highest powers) in everybody's eyes with the impudence of a quack. It has been said that there is always a touch of something divine at the bottom of the basest nature, &c. But where was it in Pritchard? Not in his "love" for his children, for the love of offspring is stronger than death in the whale and the polar bear. That impulse is not instinctively human, much less divine. The phrenologists tell us that three fourths of Pritchard's head was "animal." It certainly seems to me that he was one of the most saddening, because he was one of the sanest and most genteel, specimens ever known of the "moral monster." I should like to see Mr. Galton's speculations upon the question how Pritchard would have fared if he had been dropped down as a baby among Red Indians. How would he have stood related to "society" then?

London Society is a very fair number. Mr. Du Maurier's illustration of "The Ordeal of the Rev. Mr. Green" is exceedingly happy. It is the gem of the number. But the sketch upon the first page is good too. If the artist did not intend the comic effect which is produced by the dog sitting in the same row or line with the two men, he should not have placed the cur where he is. If he did mean it, he ought to have emphasised the intention a little more. There is a full-length of Catalani, showing the fashionable lady's dress of 1812, short "body" and clinging skirt. This any lady may compare, at leisure, with the modern, much-abused "crinoline," and settle, if she can, which style of dress "disclosed" the most. But let her not omit to turn, then, to the first woodcut in the number, "My Lady's Song," and observe how beautiful dress may be, and how attractive, along with the most entire modesty.

In *Temple Bar*, it seems to us that Mr. Yates's "Land at Last" is an advance upon "Broken to Harness." Mr. Wills is welcome, write what he may, and "David Chantrey" is a novel of which he need not be ashamed. "Through Oxon" is an exceedingly happy paper.

Of the *Churchman's Family Magazine* I need only say, once again, that it is admirably edited. Of its history I know nothing; but nobody could fail to observe a short while ago that it took a start upon a better track, and the improvement continues. A very good idea of current literature may be got by quiet people who live in the country by turning to "Our Clerical Club"—a summary discussion of the books of the month, which appears in every number and shows great intelligence. It does not follow that one agrees with either of the members of the club, but the ability of the writing is clear. Mr. C. M. Ingleby (who has also a paper in the *Fortnightly*) writes an interesting article entitled "Mr. John Stuart Mill and the Nebular Hypothesis." He hints—what must have struck a good many of us—that an anti-Mill reaction will probably be setting in now; but we think he overrates the amount of the "deference" that is paid to Mr. Mill. The fact is, Mr. Mill, happening to be a man of the highest intelligence and culture, has also spoken out pretty boldly upon a few matters on which plain speech is difficult, dangerous, and rare. When other writers broach such matters, they naturally take shelter under his wing; and quite right, too. These little accidents are constantly occurring; so that the amount of current acquiescence in Mr. Mill's opinions is apt to appear much greater than it really is.

In the *Shilling Magazine* the stories and the illustrations are still good; but there is a great deal too much antiquarian matter in this magazine.

In the *St. James's* Mr. Gilbert, with his "Village Doctor," is as charming as ever—full of life, truth, goodness, and reality.

In *Good Words* we have again some excellent Holy-Land illustrations—one that is as large as four pages of the magazine. Robert Buchanan is welcome in "Langley Lane," and Ricardo Smith is really good in "Alfred Hagart's Household." By-the-by, our welcome of "Langley Lane"—a very sweet poem—must not be taken as committing us to the psychology or to the truthfulness of the sentiment. Grant the poet these, however, and his work is beautiful.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

If Mr. Walter Montgomery considers that his inaugural audience was a little too thin for the occasion, let him console himself as best he may by reflecting that a Shakespearean revival in the dog-days is a somewhat perilous venture. Warm weather exercises a depressing influence upon the human system, and so does tragedy. When the warm weather becomes hot, and the tragedy becomes "Hamlet," and they both come down upon the human system at the same time, the effect is crushing, *c'est assomant*. The Haymarket audience of Saturday night was appreciative, and seemed highly gratified with what was put before it. Mr. Montgomery's Hamlet was a carefully-studied bit of acting, which dealt intelligently, and sometimes forcibly, with stage tradition, though it threw no new lights upon the text. His most successful point was the soliloquy that follows Hamlet's welcome to the players. The character of the Ghost was quite safe in the hands of Mr. Henry Marston, who is, indisputably, the most impressive Ghost that ever walked. He was very majestic, indeed exactly what we may imagine the spirit of Hamlet père to have been in real life—that is to say, in real death. Mr. Sinclair, as King Claudius, was somewhat melodramatic. Miss Atkinson made the most of her fine voice and stately presence as the Queen. Mr. Voltaire, a Surrey veteran, played Polonius with great care, but with a certain tendency to jerkiness which struck us as unpleasant. Horatio, Laertes, and Osric—especially Laertes—call for no remark. By far the most interesting member of the cast was Miss Madge Robertson, a young lady of considerable provincial reputation, who made her début as Ophelia. She is very pretty, very graceful, very tender, and very pathetic. The scraps of melody given to Ophelia in the fourth act were sung by her with a depth of musical expression that moved the audience to enthusiasm. The young lady may be congratulated on her decidedly successful first appearance. The tragedy was not particularly well mounted; indeed, under the circumstances of Mr. Montgomery's managership, that could scarcely have been expected. The audience were surprised to hear "I know that my Redeemer liveth" played upon the organ while Hamlet struggled in the agonies of death. If the air is in place in "The Messiah," it is out of place in "Hamlet."

A new play, "Fra Angelo," is preparing at the Haymarket. It is, I hear, a maiden effort by Mr. Russell, son of Mr. Henry Russell, of "Ship on Fire," "Maniac," and "Gin Fiend" celebrity.

A new drama, by Mr. Boucicault, is in rehearsal at the Adelphi. Its subject is the story of Rip Van Winkle. Mr. Joe Jefferson, a famous actor from the States, is to appear in the principal character.

THE STRAND has closed, and THE PRINCE OF WALES'S is closing. The companies of both theatres go to Liverpool; the Strand troupe to the Theatre Royal, the other to the Prince of Wales's Theatre.

Professor Anderson is again to the fore with a farewell season. It is too late in the day to describe Professor Anderson or his entertainment. His Bottles of Bacchus, Doves of Zoroaster, Ecrlins de Verre, Rings of Confucius, Fychow Mysteries, and Belzorian creations are as ingenious, mysterious, and complicated as ever. The same attendant satellites move round him and about him, and artfully bewilder the sight and other senses of the spectators. Miss Louise Anderson—or, as she is styled in the programme, the Modern Mnemosyne—is certainly a very wonderful young lady. She guesses at everything, and always correctly; and spells long words not only like a spelling-book, but like a spelling-book held up before a mirror—that is, she spells the words backwards as well as forwards. Perhaps she even knows how the Professor performs those prodigies of prestidigitation at which astounding and admiring audiences are amazed. (The foregoing alliterative sentence is entirely at the wizard's service, and could be spelt backwards with great effect.) A new attraction has been introduced between the first and second parts of the magical séance, in the person of Mr. Frederic Maccabe, who gives an entertainment something after the fashion of Mr. Woodin. Mr. Maccabe appears as an elderly gentleman, who endeavours to make a speech; gives a capital ventriloquial scene; sings a song as a young lady; then appears as a railway porter, and, as a wandering minstrel, imitates the tone and manner of street vocalists admirably. Mr. Maccabe possesses considerable mimetic and musical talent, and his changes of dress are marvellously rapid. His libretto, as well as the versification of some of his songs, however, might be improved. "Begone, Dull Care," the title of the entertainment, is unassisted by scenery or mechanical appliances. Mr. Maccabe is only aided by a piano, on which he accompanies himself.

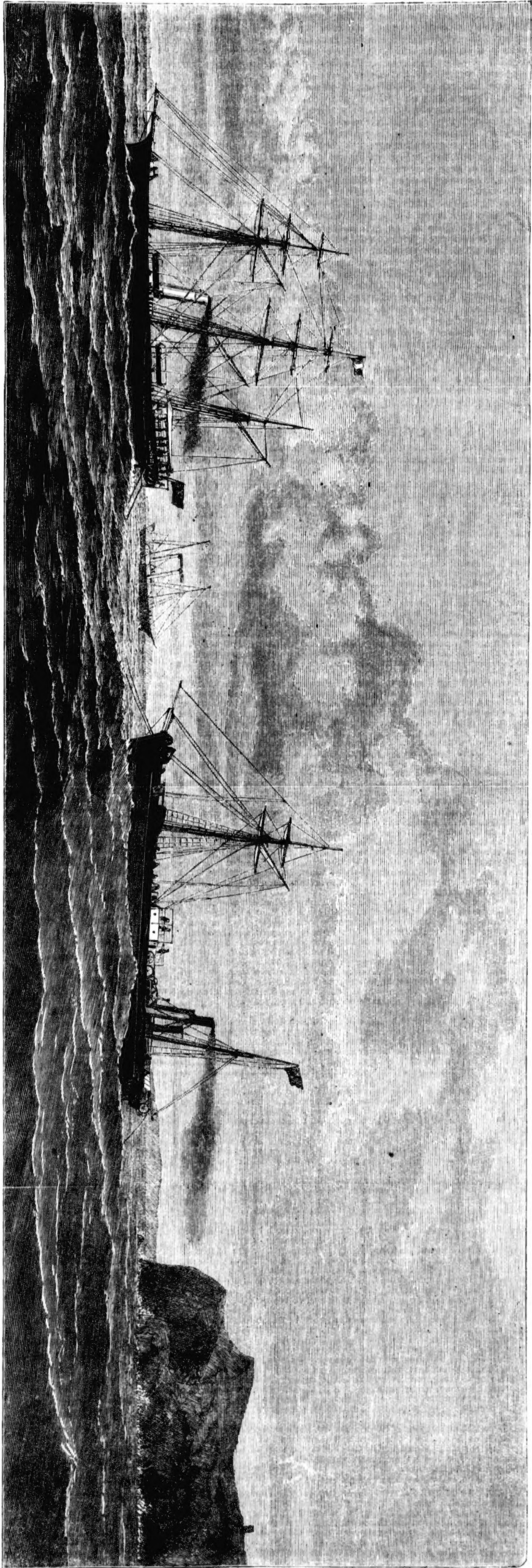
MARRIAGE NOTICES.—A Western paper gives the following notice:—"All notice of marriage, where no bridecake is sent, will be set up in small type, and poked into some outlandish corner of the papers. Where a handsome piece of cake is sent, it will be put conspicuously in large letters; when gloves, or other bride favours, are added, a piece of illustrative poetry will be given in addition. When, however, the editor attends the ceremony *in propria persona*, and kisses the bride, it will have especial notice—very large type, and the most appropriate poetry that can be begged, borrowed, stolen, or coined from the brain editorial."—*The American Joe Miller*.

MUNICIPAL SAVINGS BANKS FOR WORKING MEN.—The town clerk of Bradford (Mr. Rayner), in a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has propounded a scheme for enabling working men to invest their savings as loans with municipal bodies for effecting public works. The town clerk proposes that an Act should be passed to authorise corporations, local commissioners, boards of health, or other local bodies, to receive small sums from working men as loans for carrying out public works. These bodies now borrow of capitalists or institutions money for this purpose, and the town clerk's scheme will enable them to receive, at short intervals, the savings of working men as loans on security of the rates. For these loans it is suggested that lenders should receive 15s. per cent. more than the ordinary savings bank gives and 25s. per cent. more than the Post Office savings bank allows on deposits. Should the advances of any lender amount to £50, he then can have an ordinary debenture for the sum at 4 per cent. The Chancellor of the Exchequer states that the proposals are of great importance and interest. Her Majesty's Government could not undertake to pronounce upon them in the abstract; but if the local authorities at Bradford, or any place in similar circumstances, should put them forward they would undoubtedly receive careful consideration.

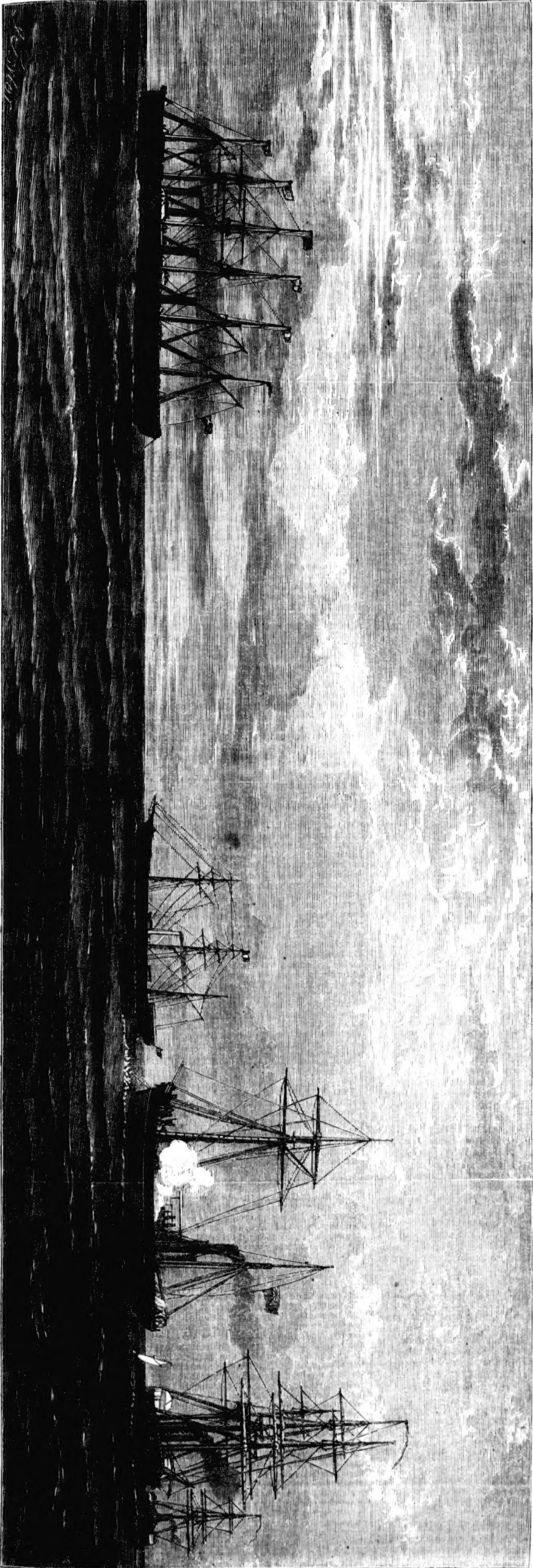
ZIRCONIUM.—Since the discovery of aluminium, which was brought about by the aid of the powerful reducer, sodium, chemists have been untiring in their endeavours to obtain the other metals suspected to exist in the bases which had until then resisted every effort to decompose them. It was thus magnesium was found soon after aluminium; and now M. Troost, in a paper addressed to the Academy of Sciences, has described his researches on zirconium, or the base of zirconia, which is extracted from the precious stone called hyacinth zircon, or "jargon," remarkable for its delicate tints, varying between white and red. M. Troost wished to determine whether zirconium, already found in an amorphous state by Berzelius, was a metal similar to magnesium or aluminium, or a metalloid not unlike carbon, boron, or silicon. His first experiments were directed towards obtaining zirconium in a crystallised state, and in this he succeeded by heating one part of a double fluoride of zirconium and potassium with one part and a half of aluminium in a crucible made of the charcoal which accumulates in the gas retorts, and at a temperature equal to that required for melting iron. When the crucible has cooled, the surface of the button of aluminium which has been formed is covered with thin, crystalline laminae pressed together like the leaves of a book. The aluminium may be removed by dissolving it in hydrochloric acid diluted with twice its volume of water. By this means the laminae of zirconium may be removed; but there still remain some, consisting of an alloy of aluminium and zirconium. The pure metal, in a crystallised state as described, is a very hard substance of great brilliancy, and resembling antimony in colour, lustre, and brittleness. The laminae are easy to cleave in two directions inclined to each other at about 93 deg., their planes being inclined to the third or ground plane at an angle of about 105 deg. The density of crystallised zirconium is 4.15. Chlorine combines with it at a dull red heat. The sulphuric and nitric acids do not attack it at the ordinary temperature. Its real dissolvent is hydrofluoric acid. Amorphous zirconium, as obtained by Berzelius, is a powder scarcely distinguishable from powdered charcoal. It is a bad conductor of electricity.



THE PICTURE-GALLERY IN THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.



THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH: PAYING OUT THE SHORE-END OF THE CABLE FROM THE CAROLINE OFF VALENCIA.



GREAT EASTERN.

THE FINAL DEPARTURE OF THE GREAT EASTERN.

HAVE.

CAROLINE.

TELEGRAPH.

SPIRIT.

THE PICTURE-GALLERY OF THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.

THE picture-gallery of the Dublin International Exhibition has been, from the opening, one of the most attractive features of the display. It contains the best collection of works of art ever seen in Ireland—a collection which, in some respects, has never been surpassed in previous exhibitions. The foreign galleries contain a large number of really great productions, and the ancient masters' gallery has some fair examples of the styles of some of the most eminent artists. There is only one gallery with which we cannot be satisfied, and we regret to say that this is the modern British. There is scarcely a single worthy specimen of native art in this large chamber, and certainly the contrast between the pictures which line its walls and those of the foreign contribution awakens very unpleasant feelings. There are British painters quite equal in genius to any foreigners, and it should have been easy to secure a better representation of their powers. As we gave a pretty full notice of the pictures exhibited in the various sections of the gallery shortly after the opening of the exhibition (see *ILLUSTRATED TIMES*, May 20), it is unnecessary to go into details on the present occasion. Our Engraving will convey a good idea of the generally fine effect produced by the splendid collection of pictures now on view in Dublin.

As the season advances the attendance at the Exhibition gradually but perceptibly increases. During the three weeks there has been a large influx of visitors from England and the Continent; each day a large number of foreigners might have been observed in the courts, and the general attendance was both numerous and fashionable. We are glad to see many announcements of cheap railway excursions from different parts of Ireland. The result must be to increase very considerably the number of visitors to the Exhibition. But August, the proper month for tourists, has as yet barely commenced, and it will determine the success or failure of the undertaking. It should be stated, in justice to the executive committee, that the musical arrangements are much more perfect than they were some weeks ago, and that precautions have been taken to ensure silence during the performances.

THE OYSTER CROP OF 1865.

MR. FRANK BUCKLAND has addressed to the *Times* the following interesting letter on the subject of the prospects of the oyster crop of 1865:—

Sir,—The weather during the next few weeks will determine whether we shall have a good or a bad crop of young oysters in 1865. Just now the oysters at the mouth of the Thames are in full "black spat"—that is, they are just ready to send forth the young oysters (technically called "spat") from their shells. The way to ascertain this, without operating with the oyster-knife, is to place oysters newly dredged in the sun. They will shortly "gape their shells;" and then, by peeping carefully between the shells, one can see in those which contain spat a mass of mudlike material adhering round the beard of the oyster. If the embryo is nearly ready to be emitted from the parent shell it much resembles slate pencil in a state of powder; if it be in a less advanced stage of maturity, it is of a white, milklike colour.

It has been stated that from one to two million young oysters are produced from a single parent. I have examined several native oysters of the average size and weight, and never found the highest number of spat to be more than 829,655, and the lowest 276,555. Even with these reduced figures, imagine what an enormous number of young ones must be produced from the parent oysters in a well-stocked laying or oyster-bed! and yet the "fall of spat" for the last five years has been bad—in other words, although the young oysters have been born, something has happened to them, and they have died in their infancy.

I have been lucky enough to see more than once, in my little oyster observatory, the process of "spatting." The oyster slowly and cunningly opens its shells and waits awhile. If there is the slightest jar or shake to the water, snap go the shells in an instant, like a steel trap on the leg of a rabbit. All being again quiet, suddenly the parent oyster ejects the spat in a dense cloud, spreading it out in all directions like a jet of steam from a stationary locomotive on a calm day. In a minute or two afterwards out comes another cloud of spat from the oyster, and so on till the performance is concluded.

From the observations I have made, I am convinced that in the embryonic state young oysters are very susceptible of cold. If the temperature of the sea suddenly drops many degrees, they all close their shells, and fall to the bottom dead, just as a frosty night will "nip up" and cause to fall off from the branches the delicate blossoms of fruit trees. If, on the contrary, the weather continues of a warm and equal temperature both day and night, and if it be at the same time calm, the young oysters will have a chance of taking up their position on the various substances they love best.

In calm and warm weather, and particularly in the sunshine, I find the young oysters slowly like to dance up and down, rising up and falling like sparks from a firework. The main body of them, however, remain at the bottom, swarming about like bees round the entrance of a hive, or a colony of wood-ants when their nest is disturbed.

One sees occasionally columns of gnats dancing up and down in the air. I fancy the same conditions which suit the gnats on land suit the young oysters in the sea. Cold and wind displease the gnats, and they are no more seen; the same with the oysters, though they have many enemies besides.

It is for this reason that so much will depend upon the weather during the next few weeks whether we shall have a good or bad crop of oysters this year.

It is not known how long the young oysters, after leaving their mother's shell, swim about by means of their cilia; but it is known that, after an unknown period, they affix themselves to the "culch"—i.e., empty oyster-shells, &c.—and commence to grow. How this process of fixing is done no living man knows. Happy he who finds it out and applies his knowledge to practice.

In my "museum of economic fish-culture," which I have established at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, South Kensington, under the science and art department, can be seen samples of oysters adhering to most of the substances which they choose for themselves, and by applying the observing and then the inductive faculty we are enabled to provide such substances at the bottom of the sea as are agreeable to the oysters, and thus entice them to fix themselves.

The newly-established oyster company at Herne Bay, Kent, are by their Act of Parliament bound to institute experiments with the French system of oyster culture, and the directors have been good enough to intrust this matter into my hands. For several weeks past I have, with the able and energetic assistance of Mr. Dilnot, of Herne Bay, been hard at work with my experiments on the foreshore. I have encountered a great many difficulties, as the conditions of soil, currents, and especially temperature, at the mouth of the Thames are very different from those at the Isle of Ré, in the Bay of Biscay. Turnips are growing on the neighbouring shore in the one case, vines on the other. However, I have provided for the young spat (which ought just now to be floating about in the sea) ample accommodation and the most enticing houses if they will only be good enough to behave like their French relations, and use their organs of "stick-to-it-iveness." If they will not do so it is not my fault.

In making these experiments on the plans recommended for the French coasts by my learned friends, M. Coste and Dr. Kemmerer, we must not by any means underrate, but, on the contrary, speak highly of, the system of cultivation as pursued by our own countrymen. This, our English system, has worked admirably for many years past, and has always been a success when there has been a "fall of spat"—i.e., when the young oysters escape destruction while swimming about. If there is no natural fall of spat, neither the English nor French system will avail. We must, as with land crops, await the gifts of Providence either for good or bad.

As yet I have discovered no young oysters in my oyster parks and gardens; and, although I have offered a large fee in the shape of bodily refreshment to the first dredgerman who produces a young oyster of this year from the natural beds in the neighbourhood, no one has as yet claimed the reward.

My friend Mr. F. Wiseman, who has large oyster-beds at Paglesham, on the River Roach, in Essex, has kindly sent me specimens of young oysters of this year adhering to shells, but the crop is not abundant. "Not one spat," he says, "has been seen at Brightlingsea," a celebrated place for oysters to breed. As yet, then, the oyster crop is not by any means promising; but, weather permitting, there is still a chance of our getting a fair average quantity.

This is no trifling question of natural history, but a matter of the greatest importance, as it involves very large amounts of capital, the food of the people, and the employment and well-being of numbers of honest, hard-working dredgermen, with their wives and families.

Athenæum Club, Pall-mall.

FRANK BUCKLAND.

THE REWARD OF THE FAITHFUL.—A Curate of a London parish, of most exemplary conduct, was accustomed to remunerate very freely with any of his people whose life was not what it should have been. They wished much to get rid of him, but could find no pretext for complaint, either to the Rector or the Bishop. They therefore hit upon this cunning plan—they drew up and signed a memorial to the Bishop setting forth the admirable character of the Curate, lamenting that his eminent worth should not be rewarded, and earnestly recommending him for preferment. Soon after, this very living became vacant; whereupon the Bishop, considering how acceptable as well as deserving he appeared to be, presented him with it, informing him of the memorial. The good man thanked his people with tearful eyes, rejoicing that he had taken in good part his freedom of speech, and assuring them that he would continue all his life the curate which had won their approbation.

THE CATTLE PLAGUE.

A MEETING of the metropolitan cowkeepers was held at the Marylebone Institute on Monday, to consider what measures should be adopted with reference to the prevailing malady which has been recently imported into London. The meeting took place at eight o'clock, and there was a highly respectable attendance of about 250.

The principal feature in the evening's proceedings was an interesting address delivered by Professor Gamgee, late of Edinburgh, now head of the new Veterinary College at Chelsea. He described the disease as a catarrhal affection, producing in the blood an impurity which had a tendency to work itself outward in every direction, and any exhalation, even through the pores of the skin, of an animal affected with the plague was, he said, highly infectious. This disease was, in the vast majority of cases, incurable. An animal attacked by it might succumb in two or three days, or might last a week or more; but he was generally doomed from the outset. The origin of the plague was infected foreign cattle brought to Islington Cattle-market. Sound cattle coming in contact with them then caught the malady, and in their turn transmitted it to others, so that it was spreading in a rapidly-widening circle. It had been but just a month in this country, yet even in that short time he calculated that nearly 2000 cattle must have suffered. It was much to be regretted that prompt measures for its eradication were not taken on its first appearance. He showed how, though we had antidotes for mineral, we had none for animal, poisons of the blood, and therefore it was rather to prevention than to cure that attention should be directed in cases like that under discussion. All beasts that were evidently affected should be killed, or, at least, at once and effectually separated from all healthy animals. The Professor explained to the meeting that, in similar cases in France, Austria, Prussia, and elsewhere on the Continent, immediate steps were taken by Government to surround, isolate, and extinguish the infection in each locality in which it appeared—if possible, before it had time to spread. There were veterinary inspectors, on whose reports diseased beasts were slaughtered and their owners indemnified by Government. The British Government had no Acts of Parliament which enabled them to adopt the same measures; but, even if they had, he doubted whether our English way of "helping ourselves" was not the best in most cases of difficulty. He compared the cattle plague to the cotton famine, which, he said, it might quite equal in its magnitude as a national calamity. He feared that many thousands of cattle would be lost, and he thought the country should come forward for its own and the cattle-owners' sakes, as it did for the Lancashire people. He went on to show that although the cattle plague was not contagious to human beings, yet that indirectly it might produce typhus and other fevers and diseases, because, after a lengthened period of bad or insufficient food in any country, the people of that country were sure to suffer in health. There was no cattle disease better known than this. So far from being new, it had existed for centuries. In 1747 thousands of cattle perished, or were destroyed, the Government compensating their owners. This, however, had to be discontinued on account of the numerous frauds committed. Mr. Gamgee alluded next to the sheep smallpox in North Wiltshire in 1862. He showed how, as long as farmers concealed the illness of their sheep, the disease spread with great rapidity; but when they subscribed to pay for the destruction of all that were diseased, and thus encouraged each other to speak the truth, the sheep smallpox was put an end to in three weeks. It would be more difficult to bring the cattle plague to a termination, but the same course was the proper one to pursue. The cow-owners should put their shoulders to the wheel at once, form a provisional committee, and take steps to carry out the most advisable measures. He said he had a staff of clever men about him in the new college which was to be opened at Chelsea next week, and that they would all give their services gratuitously to the sufferers in the present emergency.

An elderly man—a cowkeeper—was in favour of direct and immediate Government interference. But it was objected that visiting inspectors would carry the contagion from shed to shed in their clothes. This was denied by Mr. Gamgee, who instanced the little fear we had of our medical men, though they went all day long among patients having all sorts of ailments.

A veterinary surgeon from Northampton advocated homœopathic treatment for the cattle disease, and spoke of the success of Mr. Lord, principal veterinary surgeon at Canterbury cavalry depot, in the application of that treatment to a disease in horses, which he said resembled the cattle plague.

A gentleman said the magistrates were holding extra licensing days, so that new cattle sheds might be at once licensed for the separation of diseased animals.

A Wiltshire sheep farmer corroborated all that Mr. Gamgee had said about the sheep smallpox and the favourable results that followed the course taken, and strenuously recommended openness and above-board dealing among the cattle-owners.

THE GOVERNING FAMILIES IN PARLIAMENT.

A LIST of the House of Commons of England is a document having many different kinds of interest, according to the points of view from which it is regarded. To a political man the predominant question is—Who is a Liberal, and who a Conservative? Social philosophers may be expected to inquire what sort of education the bulk of members have had, and at what age they have contrived to obtain a seat. Some feel curious as to the distribution of the body into interests and classes—railway and manufacturing interests, naval men, military men, relations of peers, and so forth. But there is a historical aspect from which the House may be looked at less familiar than any of these. We may regard it as a very ancient institution, to which, in the main, people of the same kind of condition have belonged for many centuries; and we may ask what proportion of men now in it belongs to families represented there during past ages. From this point of view a list of the House of Commons throws no little light on the changes of property and the fluctuations of society throughout the kingdom. To examine it for such a purpose in detail would be an endless business, and in the case of the great mass of the boroughs especially a useless business; but a note on the representation of some of the counties in different parts of England may indicate the significance of the inquiry. Beginning in the north, we find a Lowther sitting for Cumberland and one for Westmorland. This is an old Parliamentary name. Hugh de Lowther sat for Cumberland in the reign of Edward II., and another Hugh in the reign of Edward III. But where are the Skeltons, Mulcasters, Tilliols, Dentons, &c., who used to share the honour with the Lowthers under the Plantagenets? Shall we look for them on the opposite coast in Durham? But Durham returned no members till the time of Charles II., and of the names which represented it then none appear now. Northumberland, on the other hand, sends up two members of old houses—a Smithson Percy and Sir Matthew White Ridley of Blagdon, whose pedigree is proved for one or two generations beyond the reign of Henry VIII. Yorkshire—which after long returning one member now boasts eight—has a smaller proportion of men of ancient line among them—Hotham, Milton (Fitzwilliam), and Cavendish being the only names which suggest anything to a historical genealogist. The case of Cheshire is a better one, though Cheshire did not send members to Parliament earlier than the Reformation. We find two Egertons, a Legh, and a Tollerbach sitting for it, and it elected both an Egerton and a Legh to the Parliament of Queen Elizabeth. Coming southward, through Derbyshire, a Cavendish presents himself as one member, which his Elizabethan ancestor also was, and a Colville. The other names are unfamiliar, though there are families in Derbyshire, like the Gresleys, who were knights of the shire temp. Edward I. Vernon and Curzon also still exist in the county; but we are less sure of Folejambe, a name often found, along with theirs, in the early Parliamentary lists. Of the adjoining counties, Nottinghamshire has chosen among its members a Clinton and a Stanhope; and Lincolnshire a Cholmeley, a cadet of the well-known Cheshire house. The town of Lincoln, too, returns

Heneage of Hainton, the head of an old county line. But among the twelve members for Staffordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire, only three can be said to be of historic descent, which is all the more curious because these counties (especially Shropshire) stand high in the matter of family antiquity. In Leicestershire we have a Manners and a Curzon, sprung originally from the Derbyshire Curzons; while Northamptonshire, besides a Cecil, elects a Knightley of a house of real and remarkable antiquity; and Warwickshire a Mordaunt, chief of a branch of the family which produced the famous Earl of Peterborough. As we draw nearer London, names like Mordaunt and Knightley become rarer in the list. A Lindsay has indeed wandered into Berkshire by marriage; but it would be vain to look there for the De Chastillons, St. Lizes, and Golafres, who constantly sat in Parliament in the Middle Ages. The entire disappearance of some names from the surface of society is very singular. The Golafres, for instance, were knights of the shire reign after reign in Plantagenet times; yet we doubt if their very name is to be found now in the *Court Guide*, *Clergy*, *Army*, or *Navy Lists*. The disappearance of renowned Parliamentary families is still more striking—like that, for example, of Hampden, which sat in the House of Commons as far back as the time of Edward III. Distance from the metropolis does not necessarily save such houses. We have not observed the names of any of the present Cornish members of the House before the Restoration, though Cornwall was famous for the number of its Parliamentary boroughs. And the same may be said of Devonshire, in spite of the fact that Trefusis and Acland are two of the oldest stocks in that part of the world. The general result would seem to be that while there is a fair admixture of families of respectable age in the new Parliament, it is excessively rare to find any that were Parliamentary at remote periods. We may observe, too, that, contrary to popular notions on the subject, the majority of men of old family in Parliament belong to the peerage. And this is easily explained. There are many families in the gentry older than many families in the peerage; but the very powerful old commoners have for the most part been absorbed into the latter body, which contains, besides, a certain class of families superior to any existing in the gentry at all.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE BATTLE OF THE NILE.

TUESDAY last was the sixty-seventh anniversary of the ever memorable Battle of the Nile, and yet we still find that there is one gallant officer who holds the same rank now that he held ten months before the first important conquest of Sir Horatio Nelson, and which conferred on him the barony of "Nelson of the Nile." The following are the names of the only five veteran survivors of the battle, together with the rank they then held, the rank they now hold, and the honours they have received since entering the Royal Navy:—Admiral Sir James Alexander Gordon, G.C.B., Governor of Greenwich Hospital since October, 1853, with a salary of £1500, with half pay, house, stores, &c., in receipt, also, of £300 for wounds, and who has a medal and seven clasps, entered the Navy in November, 1793; was Midshipman of the *Révolutionnaire* in Bridport's action, of the *Namur* at the battle off Cape St. Vincent, and of the *Goliath*, seventy-four, at the Nile. He was promoted to Lieutenant Jan. 27, 1800, and in that capacity served in the *Bordelais* at the capture of the *Curieux* and action with her consorts, and was senior of the *Racon* at the capture of the *Lodi* in 1803, and was advanced to her command March 3, 1804, and posted into the *Diligencia* May 16, 1805. He was Captain of the *Mercury* at the capture and destruction of a convoy off Cadiz, in 1808, and planned several cutting-out affairs; of the *Active* in the action off Lissa, for which he received the gold medal, and was also present at the capture of the French frigate *Pomone*, on which occasion he lost a leg; of the *Seahorse* in 1814, and commanded a squadron which ascended the Potomac and obtained possession of the city of Alexandria, for which he was made a K.C.B., Jan. 2, 1815. He afterwards served on the *Halifax* and Mediterranean stations, and from July, 1832, until he obtained flag rank, Jan. 10, 1837, served at Chatham; and was Lieutenant Governor of Greenwich Hospital from July, 1840, until appointed Governor. He has been nine times gazetted. Captain John Forbes, on the retired list, who has a medal and three clasps, and who was gazetted in 1807, entered the Navy in February, 1794, and was Midshipman of the *Minotaur*, at the capture of St. Lucia, in 1796, at the Nile, and in the operations on the Italian coast, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1800. He served in the *Florentine* at the landing in Egypt in 1801, in the *Leopard* in the attack on the Boulogne flotilla in 1804, in the *Canopus* at St. Domingo in 1806, and in the *Royal George* at the passage of the Dardanelles, where he was wounded. He afterwards served two years at Newfoundland, and on the Baltic and home stations. Captain John George Phillips, on the retired list, and who has a medal and clasp, entered the Navy in May, 1796, and, after serving in the *North Sea*, was Midshipman of the *Minotaur* at the Battle of the Nile and operations on the coast of Italy, and served in her boats, cutting out the *Esmeralda* and *Paz*, Spanish corvettes, in the *Barcelona Roads*, in 1800. He afterwards served on the home station, on the coast of North America, in the *Channel*, on the north coast of Spain, at Newfoundland, in the *Baltic*, and in the *Dowry*; and was advanced to Commander in October, 1814. Commander Richard Lock Connolly, on the retired list, and a recipient of the Greenwich Hospital out-pension of £50, and who has a medal and clasp, entered the Navy in 1795, and, after sharing at the bombardment of Cadiz and expedition to Tenerife, was Midshipman of the *Thebes* at the Battle of the Nile. He next assisted at the blockade of Alexandria, and served on the West India, *Halifax*, and home stations, and was severely wounded when Sub-Lieutenant of the *Tigress* gun-brig, in action with the Boulogne flotilla, in 1805. He was made Lieutenant in January, 1807, and afterwards served on the Mediterranean station; witnessed the evacuation, in February, 1808, of Seylla; served off Cherbourg, at Spithead, and off Flushing, and at Halifax. First Lieutenant John Scobell, on the reserved half-pay list of the Royal Marine forces, and who has a medal and clasp, was a First Lieutenant in the *Alexander*, 74. He entered the service, as Second Lieutenant, Jan. 27, 1796; and became First Lieutenant Oct. 20, 1797, and as such served at the above battle; and in 1799 was engaged on shore at the capitulation of St. Elmo, Capua, and Gaeta.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

THE BUILDERS' STRIKE.—A general meeting of the men on strike at Cubitt's firm, 400 in number, was held on Saturday at the Bagnigge-wells Tavern, Bagnigge-wells road, when the resolutions of the delegates adopted on the preceding evening for closing the strike, and also the decisions of the firms to give the 4d. advance at once, were laid before the men. They were highly pleased with the result, and a resolution was unanimously passed that the men should take in their tools on Monday morning. The amount of levy paid in on Saturday evening was about £250. It is worthy of notice that the dozen men who had come up from the country and gone into work at Cubitt's during the strike paid their levy on Saturday.

MR. POPE HENNESSY.—At the declaration of the poll for King's County, Sir P. O'Brien was proclaimed by the High Sheriff to have been elected as the colleague of Mr. King to represent the county in Parliament, and Mr. Pope Hennessy, who had been, on the close of the poll, announced as the chosen member, was thus declared unseated. He at once formally tendered exceptions to the figures given out by the Sheriff and to the whole proceeding; that the assessor had not accurately added up the votes; that the Sheriff himself, or the Deputy-Sheriff duly sworn, had not done the work; that votes polled for Hennessy had been counted for O'Brien; that votes obliterated as having been given more than once had been counted, one of which had been three times recorded by one voter, &c. Mr. King and Sir P. O'Brien then spoke, and afterwards Mr. Hennessy addressed the electors. He said he was only apparently defeated, because the decision against him involved an appeal to a Parliamentary Committee. He was not, however, in the slightest degree dishonoured or disgraced, or in the slightest disheartened. He had youth, an honourable ambition, and honest principles. He had, moreover, a consistent policy. His fellow-countrymen generously would not forget the little public services he had been able to render them. He had not lost the opportunity that King's County gave him, but had endeavoured to discharge his public duties with some industry, and some zeal, and some success. In Parliament the interests of Ireland require to be carefully watched, and he who is entrusted with their guardianship has no trifling or easy task. In facing a hostile Ministry an Irish representative had no sincere duty. Though the influence of the Ministry was against the Irish members, there were in the House of Commons many English and Scotch members anxious for their welfare. Especially he had found the representatives of the agricultural districts sympathetic. He found the county members vote with him. He had succeeded in passing the law whereby little children were now reared out of the contaminating influence of the workhouse, and he had carried other amendments of the law, with the details of which he would not trouble them. The system pursued by Ministers of dispensing Government patronage, through those members who supported them in the House, was a Parliamentary corruption to which he had been strenuously opposed. The practice was corrupting to the representative and to the electors alike. He had striven, with partial success, to promote a principle of open competition for Government appointments. In such of the competitions, so far as they had gone, Irishmen had been remarkably successful, and they generally beat the Scotch and English candidates. He had also defeated the Government, after a hard battle, on the question of keeping the medical appointments in India open to competition. He also referred to his efforts to obtain a fair share of Imperial expenditure in Ireland and to the establishment of a Royal dockyard at Cork, and services which he stated that he had rendered specially to King's County. He concluded with heartily thanking his friends and supporters.

Literature.

Essays on Woman's Work. By BESSIE RAYNER PARKES.
Alex. Strahan.

Miss Parkes is one of those people whose *policy* as thinkers and writers—whose whole manner of producing their opinions before the world—does them an injustice. However rapidly she writes, and however impatient she is of saying all she means in the usual way, she is evidently a careful and consistent thinker, and, little as careless readers may discern it, there is even the stamp of *greatness* upon all she writes. That something which makes the strong attraction of the very best writing is never long wanting in the pages of Miss Parkes. Her sentences are much more vital than the reader might at first suppose; and one unmistakable sign of beautiful culture and noble conscience is everywhere present, and what that sign is we will try to explain.

In a great deal of bad writing called by the name of the essay and enjoying large popularity, it is made plain to an intended reader that the mind of the author is a *patchwork* mind, in which there has been no real struggle to harmonise apparently conflicting theories of things or to find out a sincere course for itself. Hence the writing holds with the bare and runs with the hounds, and pretends that that is justice when it is all the while hypocritical cowardice, only excusable in so far as it is alloyed with downright bluntness and stupidity of soul. If the author condemns something—say Calvinism—he sticks in an epithet before the noun, and talks of “*rigid Calvinism*,” and then, you know, if anybody is offended, he can back out of it by referring to the qualification. One trick he is constantly playing off, at least on every page, sometimes more frequently. When he has delivered an opinion upon any subject whatever, he immediately contradicts it in a paragraph, beginning, “On the other hand”—or, “It must, however, be owned”—or, “To do justice to the other side of this question,” or some formula of that kind. In this way he tampers with the truth, and debases his own and the reader's mind; and, while maintaining an appearance which passes for justice, displays his own utter incompetence as a thinker. The true business of a writer who deals with facts or opinions upon open questions is (1) either to take sides decisively; (2) to show that supposed contradictions are only apparent; or (3) to state a case for the reader, and there leave it, without muzzling him by any pretence of harmonising things which do not accord. Now, Miss Parkes is an honest thinker and an honest writer. The nature of her plan prevented her exhibiting on her printed pages the processes which have been gone through in her own mind on those most difficult questions to which she addresses herself; but we have, in the result, the benefit of her sincerity. This accomplished lady shows, by the turn of her sentences and by what she does *not* say, that she has apprehended the difficulties, and has never, in her own soul, cut a knot and pretended to herself that she had untied it. Greater praise it would scarcely be possible to give.

This must not be taken to imply that every reader, for example, must think the manner in which “difficulties” are confronted satisfactory. The present writer, for one, would have nothing to say to any “*compromise*” whatever on any question, such as that referred to on page 237, for instance. But the quality of the author with whom we have to deal is sufficiently disclosed by the fact that the “*compromise*” is openly treated as one, so that we are not bothered with “other sides,” “other hands,” and other devices of stupidity or cowardice, such as turn the heart sick when questions of life or death are under consideration.

It is, one hopes, quite needless nowadays to pay any deference to vulgar fancies about “*strong-mindedness*,” and to assure the “most fastidious reader” that he will not find in Miss Parkes a word to displease him. The book is every way noble, well-thought, well-written, admirably well-informed. Here and there the current of the writing pauses and spreads into little lakes of what is near being poetry of a very peculiar devout tenderness and beauty. On every ground, we can cordially recommend the book.

The Business of Pleasure. By EDMUND YATES. Chapman and Hall.

People generally, we suspect, when “taking their pleasure,” think little, and care less, about the amount of work incurred in placing the entertainment they are enjoying before them. Why should young “bloodes,” when having their “lark” at Cremorne, trouble themselves about the care, and thought, and calculation, and catering, and training necessary to furnish the gardens, and the ballet, and the refreshment-rooms against their coming? Why should the City gourmand, as he eats his Greenwich dinner, disturb his digestion by speculations as to what waters have been swept for the fish, what pastures have nourished the meats, or what vineyards have yielded the wines he consumes, provided each be first-rate of its kind? Why should lighthearted frequenters of theatres, and operas, and concert-rooms bother their heads about the long hours of study, the rehearsals, or the fatigues of actors and singers, or the planning, and corresponding, and worry of managers? In short, why should those who are “on pleasure bent” concern themselves with the headaches and heartaches, the struggles, the strivings, and the toils of those who minister to their gratification? Pleasure would be spoilt were business obtruded upon its votaries. And yet there are few subjects so interesting or so instructive as the lives and labours of those whose existence is passed in providing pleasure for their neighbours. Most persons have a kind of craving to know something of the personal appearance, manners, and mode of life of the “playfellow”—off the stage; but very few indeed think much about the work the said players have to perform ere they can appear before the footlights. When, again, the new novel, or the magazine, or the newspaper is laid upon the breakfast-table, how many of those who relish their personal care to speculate about the mental toil, and travail, and exhaustion of authors, editors, and printers? Few, very few, indeed; and therefore we think it was a happy idea of Mr. Yates to write the papers comprised in these volumes, and to lay before the public—in an interesting, agreeable, and amusing manner—information which the said public will be thankful to obtain, but which it would have shrunk from taking trouble to acquire.

The object Mr. Yates had in view in writing his essays was “to show the inner life of some of those carrying on the business of pleasure, and bringing thereto as much energy, honesty, and industry, as great aptitude for business, as much self-abnegation, as much skill and talent for seizing opportunities and supplying promptly the public demand, and in very many cases as much capital, as are required in any other business.” And very well indeed has the author performed his task. The far greater portion of the papers are excellent, and, though some are scarcely up to the general mark, and a few contain faults, the work, as a whole, is a valuable contribution to the light and interesting literature of the day. “Cremorne Gardens,” “The Greenwich Dinner,” “Riding London,” “My Excursion Agent,” “The Grimgribber Rifle Corps,” “Holding up the Mirror,” may be mentioned as among some of the best papers in the volume, the first of which, by-the-way, contains the cream of the essays, those included in the second having to some extent an air of “padding” or filling up about them. To one paper we must take exception as decidedly out of place. Kensington Cemetery and its surroundings can scarcely, we should fancy, have much association with “pleasure.” Neither, surely, do the “Case for the Prosecution,” or the “Case for the Prisoner,” or “Lectured at Basinghall-street,” come under the category of jovial experiences.

In writing the article “My Newspaper,” Mr. Yates would have been more interesting had he given some idea of the “inner life” of a newspaper office, and told how the “broad sheet” is got up, instead of merely being funny over the contents of the paper, of which every reader can judge for himself. In connection with this subject we may call Mr. Yates's attention to a mistake he falls into in one of the papers on “Riding London.” Newspaper reporters do not hurry up, with note-books in their breast pockets, “from Parliament debates to their offices, there to turn their mystic hieroglyphics into sonorous phrases.” No such thing ever happens nowadays. Parliamentary debates are written out in rooms, attached to each of

the Houses, specially set apart for the use of the reporters; and messengers retained by the various papers, and not the reporters, convey the copy to the printing-offices. We may also, while in the way of fault-finding, remind Mr. Yates that the name of the hon. member for Bradford is not *Foster*, but *Forster*; but that is a small fault, and may be merely a printer's mistake. A more serious objection to the work is the evident bookmaking which it exhibits. Who cares now for the details of the fight between Heenan and Sayers? Are they not extant, in very choice slang, in the pages of the sporting papers? And who, again, after enjoying two pleasant, sunshiny Derby Days, cares to recall the memory of the “Dirty Derby” of 1863? Mr. Yates would have better fulfilled the promise of his title and of his introduction had he confined himself to one volume, which would easily have embraced all that really is concerned with the “Business of Pleasure.”

With these exceptions, we recommend Mr. Yates's book as at once agreeable, amusing, and in many respects instructive; and we thank the author for reprinting the greater portion, at least, of these papers, most of which appeared originally, we believe, in the pages of the admirable periodicals with which the name of Mr. Charles Dickens is associated as a “household word,” and which never fail to be a source of amusement and edification “all the year round.”

Speeches and Addresses, chiefly on the Subject of British American Union. By the Hon. THOMAS D'ARCY M'GEE, M.R.I.A. Chapman and Hall.

When Canada is becoming more than ever a question—a different kind of question to what it was a quarter of a century since, but still a question—Mr. M'Gee has every claim to a hearing. He has triumphed in Canada long since; he has recently been successful here. It may be difficult to decide exactly from his speeches and addresses how far he may ultimately go for secession from the mother country. Of course he recognises the rights of the 4th of July, but he does not recognise the alleged rights of the Southern States to secede from the North. His views, as far as they are determined, may be gathered from his volume. To us they appear vague, but always gifted with patriotism of the purest spirit. But Mr. M'Gee is an Irishman, and his patriotism is given to Canada, whilst he reads his native countrymen many good lessons, which might possibly create some little dissatisfaction in the Emerald Isle. He is, by the American Constitution, bitter against the South; but he seems to forget that saying a thousand words against one cause is not saying so much as one hundred in favour of another. He objects, at too great length to be unfolded here, to the home legislation of 1840, describing it as the hasty measure of one man, and against the feelings of the Canadian people. He declares that, although the Constitution works “more or less” well, it depends entirely upon the personal character of Sir Edmund Head, or whomsoever it may be who governs; but he seems to find no fault with the Heads or the Elgins sent out. An active Irishman is nothing without a grievance, it keeps him in good humour; and an imitation of one is better than nothing. But Mr. M'Gee's whole tone will be liked. There is no mistake about him. He is a distinguished man on a distinguished subject; and, as the Canadian question, with its present aspect of expected federation, is one not generally understood, the new House of Commons should study the member for Montreal in good time to batter the Colonial Secretary. One passing mistake of Mr. M'Gee's may be mentioned. Swift was not an Irishman. He was born at 7, Hoey's-court, Dublin, truly; but, as Thackeray says, that no more makes him an Irishman than is the child of English parents born at Calcutta a Hindoo.

The Marathon and the Mediterranean: a Narrative of a Coasting Voyage. Hatchard and Co.

The anonymous writer of the new voyage may at once be set down, or exalted, as a lady. Sailing from Liverpool two years since in a screw-steaming trading vessel, her narrative describes a touch-and-go visit at every port in the Mediterranean. Goldsmith's Geography (written by the late Sir Richard Phillips) will show the route to every child. It is a pleasant trip round Italy, with Venice, Trieste, the Islands, and Greece. Of course there is no being who would not have some “impressions of voyage” on so grand a subject; but, though the present writer says some little, she generally prefers to pour forth her impressions through the medium of quoted verse always unacknowledged. The book is a record of eight weeks of perpetual jar from the working of the screw, of dirt, and of a swindling; and no doubt it makes an enduring monument of an occasion great in a lifetime. The public will scarcely tolerate it. It belongs to a family circle, and has avowedly been printed from letters at the “request of friends.” The writer is to be pitied if she ever prints “obliged by hunger.” And yet the subject is so fascinating that it is as hard to find fault as it is impossible for the book to be altogether stupid. When Hester Johnson was teased on account of Swift's praises—“Why, the Dean would write beautifully about a broomstick.” And so, the Mediterranean is so beautiful, and the Marathon so good a ship, that a really bad book is impossible—if Hester Johnson's principle may be just reversed. There are readers who may be glad to learn that Iechia “has been immortalised by Homer, by Virgil, and by Pliny,” and a page or two farther on they will find a reference to Mrs. Marcet which fully explains how the page after page of small historical erudition occurs in this book of the ocean. Even so fine a subject as Pompeii brings out little save the swindling tendencies of the guides; but it serves to remind us, with its mention of Sallust and Diomed, of the glowing pages of Sir Edward Lytton. We cannot all be Edward Lyttons to reveal our Pompeis; but some of us might have the discretion to keep our Mediterranean to ourselves.

GUILD OF LITERATURE AND ART.—Several of the members of the Guild of Literature and Art visited, on Saturday last, the houses which the Guild has built upon land the gift of Sir E. B. Lytton, near Stevenage. After the inspection the party went to Knebworth, whither they were invited by Sir E. B. Lytton. There a large number of ladies and gentlemen had mustered to meet them, and a very pleasant afternoon was passed.

THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY'S SHOW.—The show of the Highland and Agricultural Society opened, on Tuesday, at Inverness, under somewhat inauspicious circumstances as regards weather. In the evening the banquet of the society took place, and was well attended. The Duke of Argyll, who presided, in proposing the toast of “Prosperity to the Highland and Agricultural Society,” announced that Government intended to set on foot a system of collecting agricultural statistics in England and Scotland, similar to that in force in Ireland. Subsequently, on the health of the secretary of the society, Mr. Hall Maxwell, being proposed, that gentleman intimated his resignation of his office, and received a special vote of thanks for his long and valuable services.

POMPEII.—Explorations into the recently-uncovered temple of Juno, at Pompeii, have resulted in the discovery of 300 skeletons crowded within that sanctuary, a propitiatory sacrifice being evidently held in the hour they were overwhelmed. There was the statue of the goddess, with attendant peacock, the tripod in front of the altar, the golden censer, the jewels on the person of the priestess, the rich vessels holding a deposit of animal blood. The eyes of Juno were of the most vivid enamel, her arms, and her whole person richly decorated with gold trinkets, her gaudy bird resplendent with a cluster of glittering gems. Aromatic ingredients lay calcined within the censer, while gorgeous lamps and bronze ornaments strewed the tessellated pavement.

PRICE OF FOOD IN AMERICA.—In a populous district of Central Illinois before the war broke out, potatoes were to be had for 12¢ a bushel, chickens, 10¢ a piece; eggs, 5¢ a dozen; butter, 6¢; beef, from 4¢ to 6¢; mutton, from 4¢ to 5¢. Potatoes are now sold in the same district at 1 dol. 50¢, per bushel; chickens at 40¢ a piece; eggs, 25¢ a dozen; butter, 40¢; beef, 20¢ to 25¢; and mutton, 15¢ to 20¢. The fact that the price of potatoes is twelvefold what it was five years ago, in a fine agricultural district, is not a healthy sign. The great fear with reflecting people is that war prices may become chronic with us. We are now paying in New York from 25 to 30 per cent more than the London consumer for scores of house-keeping articles that are grown at our doors, while they are imported into London from the Continent. It is in keeping with all this that the Ocean Telegraph Company should propose to start their business with a charge of 5 dols. a word for messages between New York and London. A column of British telegrams will cost us 9000 dols. The same amount of matter sent from the Pacific coast, 3500 miles distant, would cost 819 dols. Are not the company calculating on too much profuseness among us?—*New York Times*.

AN ECCENTRIC MARRIAGE CONTRACT.

AN extraordinary case was brought, a few days back, under the consideration of the Paris Court of First Instance, presided over by M. Benoit-Champy. A Count and Countess, whose names are not given by the legal journals which report the case, refused their consent to the marriage of their daughter Helen with the man of her heart. She thereupon retired to a convent, from which she addressed to her parents those *actes respectueux*, which, by the French code, enable persons of full age to marry without the consent of father and mother, which is *prima facie* necessary. Thereupon the parents instituted a suit to stop the marriage, on the ground that their daughter was insane, and the principal evidence produced in support of the allegation was that she had signed a contract of marriage in the following form:—

Art. 1. Loving each other and knowing each other well enough to be certain that one cannot be happy without the other, we join ourselves together to live for ever hereafter as good married people. She will be I and I shall be he, he will be I and I shall be he. Art. 2. Charles: I promise Helen to devote all my mind, all my strength, and my whole being to the purpose of maintaining her and the children that she may give me honestly and decently. Art. 3. Helen: I promise Charles to second him in keeping our household from want and difficulty; with that view I shall make economical habits a duty. Art. 4. Charles: I admit that I am sometimes hasty and violent, and I hope to be excused for sudden bursts of anger. Helen: It will perhaps be hard to endure, but the condition is accepted to. Art. 5. Helen: I must also be pardoned something. My temper is a little uneven, and I am greatly disposed to be jealous. Charles: I will not mind caprices if they are not too frequent. As to the other fault, I am disposed to rejoice at it rather than otherwise, for a jealous person is not likely to give cause for jealousy. Art. 6. Charles and Helen: We are persuaded that between lovers disputes and coolnesses almost always arise from petty causes. On this account we mutually promise never to follow our own desires in things of small importance, but always to give way to each other. Helen: In important matters it will be right that Charles should decide, for he has more knowledge and judgment than I. Charles: Helen is too modest. I shall never decide anything without consulting her, and either converting her to my views or adopting hers if I think them best. Art. 7. As a consequence of the last preceding article, each of us shall always be dressed according to the taste of the other. Art. 8. The words, “I will,” “I expect,” “I require,” and other similar expressions, are absolutely erased from our dictionary. Art. 9. Charles will honour his wife that she may be honoured by others. He will always exhibit towards her esteem and confidence, and will be especially careful never in her presence to allow any advantage over her to any other woman upon any point whatsoever. Art. 10. We shall ever bear in mind that want of cleanliness and attention to personal appearance must necessarily produce repugnance and disgust. Neatness is to the body what amiability is to the soul. It is that which pleases. Art. 11. Helen: The majority of women nurse their own children. I hope Charles will approve of my performing my duties as a mother. Charles: I approve; subject to the doctor's advice. Art. 12. Charles: Helen will take great care not to spoil our children's intellects in their early years. She must not talk, or suffer others to talk, to them any of that nonsense which gives false ideas and dangerous impressions throughout life. Helen: I will pay great attention to this point. Art. 13. Although our mutual tenderness is a guarantee that we shall never fall in the engagements hereinbefore set forth, each of us will keep a copy of these presents, and in case of the breach of any article shall be entitled to lay it before the other party to remind him or her of the covenants entered into. Art. 14. Inasmuch as neither will have anything which does not belong to the other, there is no occasion to take any account of the contribution of each to the common stock. Affection and courage, our only fortune, cannot be counted, and each of us will endeavour to bring as much as possible.

The Court held that this eccentric contract afforded no evidence of insanity, for which imputation there was, moreover, no pretence. Judgment was accordingly given against the parents, and the Mayor was ordered to proceed at once to perform the marriage ceremony.

NON-EXPLOSIVE GUNPOWDER.

MR. GALE has invented a means of rendering gunpowder non-explosive; and has, at a variety of places, exhibited experiments which satisfactorily prove the success of the invention. The explosive power of the powder is restored by sifting out the material with which it has been mixed. In explanation of Mr. Gale's system it will be sufficient to say that by mixing pounded glass in the proportion of three or four to one with gunpowder it is rendered harmless; and for storing and transit purposes the invention is a most valuable one. Not only does the mixture of the impalpable powder with Curtis and Harvey's best No. 6 gunpowder preserve it from the possibility of explosion, but it protects it against damp. At the various places where Mr. Gale has shown his experiments he has never failed to convince those who saw them of the success of his invention; and especially was that the case on Wednesday, when Mr. Gale exhibited a series of experiments on a piece of land opposite the Westminster Palace Hotel. The first experiment performed was the ignition of a mixture of equal parts of pure powder and the “protective” powder. The result was a very rapid combustion, but not an explosion. Then the protection was increased at the rate of two to one, and the result of the application of a match was that each grain of the real powder burned separately, and without any explosive force. When the amount of protective powder was increased, so that it stood in relation to the gunpowder as three to one, only a small portion was burnt, and the remainder was left as cool and generally in the same state as it was previous to fire being applied. The proportion stated by Mr. Gale to be protective, not only from explosion, but from combustion under ordinary circumstances, was then tried, and one part of gunpowder was mixed with four of protective powder. This it was impossible to ignite. The match was extinguished by being thrust into the mixture, and even a red-hot ember shared the same fate. Three or four times was the same experiment tried, but all to no purpose, the powder would not ignite. This powder was then sifted, and the original gunpowder was handed round for inspection, and found to be in exactly its normal state. These experiments were then gone through on a larger scale, and parcels of powder, in the different proportions before named, were thrown on a huge bonfire made in the park for the purpose. The same relative results followed as we have already detailed. A barrel of the four-to-one mixture was thrown on, and it was very slow of ignition, notwithstanding the fierce fury of a great fire, fanned by a brisk wind. When it did catch light it exhibited a very stolid combustion. In fact, the “protective” mixture is an enemy of flame, and absolutely deadens the fire it is thrown on; so that, after all, the paradox of using gunpowder to put out a conflagration is not so far off realisation as most people think. The next experiment was on a large scale, and but for the absolute security which Mr. Gale's invention provides it would have been a most dangerous one. Thirty pounds of Curtis and Harvey's best gunpowder were put into a bag along with four times its weight of protective powder. This was then thrown on to the fire, and the spectators—despite what they had seen already—retired to a respectful distance. But it was an entirely unnecessary precaution. The powder nearly put the fire out at the point where the bag lay. The previously flaming embers were absolutely extinguished, and all that could be seen was a continual but feeble struggle going on between the explosive character of the real powder and the fire-annihilating power of its enemy. The result was that the gunpowder was compelled to go off a grain at a time. To do even this it required continual stirring up, for one of the qualities of the protective mixture is that it acts as a partition of defence, effectually preventing the combustion of one grain of gunpowder having any effect upon the next adjacent grain. A barrel of gunpowder mixed with protective powder, was then covered with a tolerably thick layer of pure powder. The latter, of course, when ignited, went off in its usual sudden manner; but the only effect produced on the mixture below was to heat and blacken the surface. Below the depth of a quarter of an inch everything was as cool as ever. The same relative effect was produced when a quantity of pure powder was inserted in the middle of the barrel. A poker, at a white heat, was then thrust into the barrel; but it required constant stirring to produce a continued effect, and it was several minutes before the powder in the barrel was burnt out. The whole of the experiments created the greatest surprise and gave unbounded satisfaction.

THE NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION.—Events which afterwards turn out to be of considerable national importance often come very quietly into the world; and we shall be much mistaken if the inaugural meeting of the National Artillery Association, lately commenced at Shoeburyness, be not one of that character. The riflemen have made their Wimbledon an established fact—a great anniversary—a sort of Derby in powder and ball; and now the artilleryists amongst the volunteers—by prescription the right arm of the civilian army—are determined to have their Wimbledon also, only that it is to come off at Shoeburyness, it being found quite impossible to get a safe range for the great guns at any spot nearer to town. The idea of a National Artillery Association originated with Lieutenant-Colonel Harcourt, of the Cinque Ports Artillery, and has been followed up with great energy and zeal by that officer, ably assisted in all administrative details by Captain Rutley, of the 1st Middlesex Artillery. The proposal of these gentlemen, when submitted to the War Office, received the warmest support from Earl De Grey and the Marquis of Hartington, and all the appliances of an artillery encampment were, as far as possible, placed at the disposal of the promoters of the new association. The firing commenced on Monday, and has been pursued during the week under great disadvantages in point of weather. A cup given by Lord Palmerston was won by the 1st Sussex Artillery, which also carried off the Queen's prize of £100. The Duke of Cambridge's prize, value £60, was gained by another Sussex corps, the second detachment of the 4th Cinque Ports.

THE LONDON OYSTER SEASON.

THE commencement of the oyster season is an important event in London, as well as in most great cities. We are all great oyster-eaters in these days. Whatever may be thought of the courage of the man who first ate an oyster, the feat is of too common occurrence now to have anything heroic about it. And yet to eat your first oyster, as well as to smoke your first pipe, requires a certain degree of hardihood. The present writer has a vivid recollection of his first essay at oyster-eating; it was only an attempt, and resulted in a miserable failure. But that was many years ago, and he has long since got over all squeamishness on the subject, as he trusts all his readers, save the merest juveniles, have also. So great oyster-eaters, indeed, are we becoming that the demand far exceeds the supply, and we are in danger, many of us, of having but a meagre share of the tempting dainty. The wholesale cost, this season, we are told, will not be less than £5 per bushel, and the retail price at least one shilling per dozen, for "natives." The price has gradually but steadily been rising for several years past; and there is little prospect, so the knowing ones declare, of a check being applied for years to come. Oysters now cost double what they did four years ago; the retail price having advanced in that time from sixpence to one shilling per dozen. If the same process continues, who but the richest will be able to afford the luxury? Political economists, perhaps, will tell us the mischief will cure itself: that the price will check consumption and at the same time stimulate production. Very likely; but it is small comfort to know that oysters may be sixpence a dozen in August, 1870, say, when we want to regale ourselves upon them in this present August, 1865, and can't afford to pay the price demanded. The political economists are very clever fellows, and quite sound, no doubt, in their reasoning on this as on other subjects; but their predictions are too far off fulfilment to satisfy hungry stomachs suffering under an urgent longing for a comfortable oyster supper washed down with a goblet of Chablis. It isn't that oyster-breeding lags behind, but that oyster-eating goes forward at a much more rapid rate. And how are you to balance matters if the same process goes on, Messrs. Political Economists? How are we to get cheap oysters again if they are eaten faster than they grow? That's what we want to know. If Mr. Frank Buckland and the pisciculturists can do it for us, we shall be "eternally obliged" to them, as our Scotch friends would say.

The mention of the Scotch reminds us how very picturesque an affair oyster-eating—or, rather, oyster-selling—is in Edinburgh. Who that has ever been in that "proud city" in the season (by-the-by, they deny themselves longer there than we do in London, and only eat oysters in those months in the names of which an *r* occurs) does not retain a pleasing recollection of the trim oyster-girls, with their smart striped petticoats, fishermen's coats, slouched hats, and well-filled "creels," perambulating the streets in the small hours, and making the still air resonant with their shrill but melodious cry of "Caller oo-oo!" Many a jolly supper of oysters has been eaten under Allan-a-Dale's roof, with "all its bright spangles," or in a "close-mouth" during rainy weather, the repartees of the oyster-damsels affording better seasoning than either pepper or vinegar. Many a rencontre of wit did old Kit North and his companions of the "Noctes" have with these same oyster-sellers while cooling their throats with the succulent bivalves after the "ambrosia" of the Robin Hood. Do any such gay spirits banter the oyster-girls of Auld Reekie nowadays, we wonder?

The French have lately become great consumers of oysters, and have, no doubt, helped to raise the price upon us. If "hoarse Fitzgerald" were still living to "bawl his creaking couplets" in tavern-hall or elsewhere, he might accuse another Bonaparte and his subjects of making more than the Luddites and the quatern loaf rise. The Yankees, too, are "right down slick" oyster gormandisers; but they can't have anything to do with the high price here, as they are too far off, and have, moreover, ample supplies of their own native growth.

The oyster trade of London is a very big affair in its way, "a very large subject, Sir, and would take days to get up thoroughly," as a friend, whom we have just asked for information, assures us. Luckily for us, we have not to get the subject up thoroughly just at present. Of breeding, and rearing, and dredging for oysters, and sending them to market, we gave some details in the number of our Paper for Jan. 24, 1863, and need not go over that ground again. Before the days of railways, and when Billingsgate was the sole entrepôt

for the fish, it was easy to ascertain how many bushels of oysters came to London in the course of the season, because the City levied a toll of tenpence per bushel upon all brought in, and does so still upon those landed at Billingsgate. But great quantities now come in by rail, upon which no toll is leviable, and of which, therefore, no one but the consignees take account. It is impossible, therefore, to form even a guess at the quantity consumed in London at present, but it must be something enormous. The principal oyster-houses make contracts direct with the dredgers, and receive supplies in proportion to the extent of their trade, and what are not suitable for their own purposes are disposed of to others—hawkers, stall-keepers, and the like—who seldom fail to "turn them to account." These last-named classes of dealers, however, are principally, we believe, supplied directly, or indirectly, through oyster-factors, such as Mr. Baker, of Billingsgate, who does about the largest business in this line in London. Oyster-dealers doing a large trade, such as Sweeting, Lynn, Harvey, Prosser, Scott, Quin, and others, buy directly from the fishermen, and are their own factors. (By-the way, what a number of Prossers seem to be in this line of

full share of the "big uns and fat," and make true still good Mr. Pickwick's observation that children and oyster-shells are always to be found plentiful in the same quarters—"down Whitechapel way," especially!

THE FASHIONS.

TOILETS for the present month have all relation to the country or to the various watering-places, and, though the fashions offer endless variety, there is a sort of general resemblance both in the style and the material of such costumes.

It might be considered that there are no Paris fashions and the principals of the most celebrated *magazines* had themselves migrated with their customers to Baden, Compiègne, Biarritz, or Aix-la-Chapelle; but it must be remembered that Paris has become the city of foreign visitors, and that these and the residents themselves, who are nothing if out of the mode, form a sufficient *clientelle* to keep the business even of the larger houses going pretty briskly. The linendrapers, also, are busy enough, especially in the matter of

bathing costumes, which are very piquante dresses, elegantly trimmed, and having quite a fashion of their own year after year, settled by the acknowledged leaders of the mode at those wonderful seaside haunts where bathing-machines are unknown and water-parties are got up without boats.

Amongst the many charming toilets prepared for the seaside is the following "costume des Pyrénées." It is of white flannel, and has a double jupe. The under-skirt is long, and trimmed with a cross-wise piece of ponceau cashmere, while an embroidered band of the same material is used to raise the upper-skirt in festoons. The chemise russe which is worn with this dress is trimmed to correspond. The costume is completed by a short pardessus without sleeves, and a hood of white yak lace lined with ponceau cashmere.

Another robe was composed of an under-skirt of green taffeta, with a thickly-traced lacework at the bottom; an upper-skirt of grey byzantine, with a cascade of the same material artistically trimmed with a cross-wise piece of taffeta on the fronts; pockets and epaulets complete this costume.

We have seen some very elegant trimmings for the empire bonnets, composed of roses, lilacs, white violets, and daisies intermingled with grass and foliage, employed sometimes as a cache-peigne and sometimes as wreaths. We have also noticed some very delicate sprays for raising the skirt of a ball-dress.

The first figure in our Engraving represents a robe of white alpaca, with an embroidered line of blue and light-green foliage above a band of blue taffeta at the bottom of the skirt. The corsage, sleeves, and shoulders are trimmed in the same way. The hat, of white straw, is dotted with black beads, and has a wreath of field-flowers, with a black bird in front. Mantle or shawl of black lace.

The second toilet is a robe of maize taffeta, over which is a dress of white tarlatan looped up with bows and ends of maize ribbon. The corsage is made high, and has a bow of ribbon at the waist and throat. A short paletot of the same has a pleated border with a heading of maize taffeta. The collar and under-sleeves are of muslin; the hat, of Italian straw, ornamented with a maize-coloured plume and white aigrette. The figure of the little girl has a dress of blue taffeta, with a plain skirt and square bodice. A white muslin chemisette, with sleeves, is worn with this style of corsage. The burnous is of white muslin; the hood trimmed with blue ribbon. The hat is of white straw, raised at the sides and trimmed with a white plume and blue ribbon, with long ends falling at the back.

The last figure has a robe of green taffeta; at the bottom of each breadth is a puffing of white, with bars of black velvet edged with guipure. A trimming of the same is placed on each seam of the skirt. The body, which has large basques open at the back and sides, is trimmed in the same way. The sleeves are narrow, and ornamented to correspond. The bonnet, of white straw, has a black and scarlet bird and a black lapelle at the back. The collar and sleeves are of embroidered muslin.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT THE BOTALLACK MINE, CORNWALL.

DURING their cruise round the coast of Cornwall the Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by a brilliant suite, paid a visit to the Botallack Mine, near Penzance. The Royal party landed from the Osborns at about eleven o'clock on Monday, the 24th ult., an



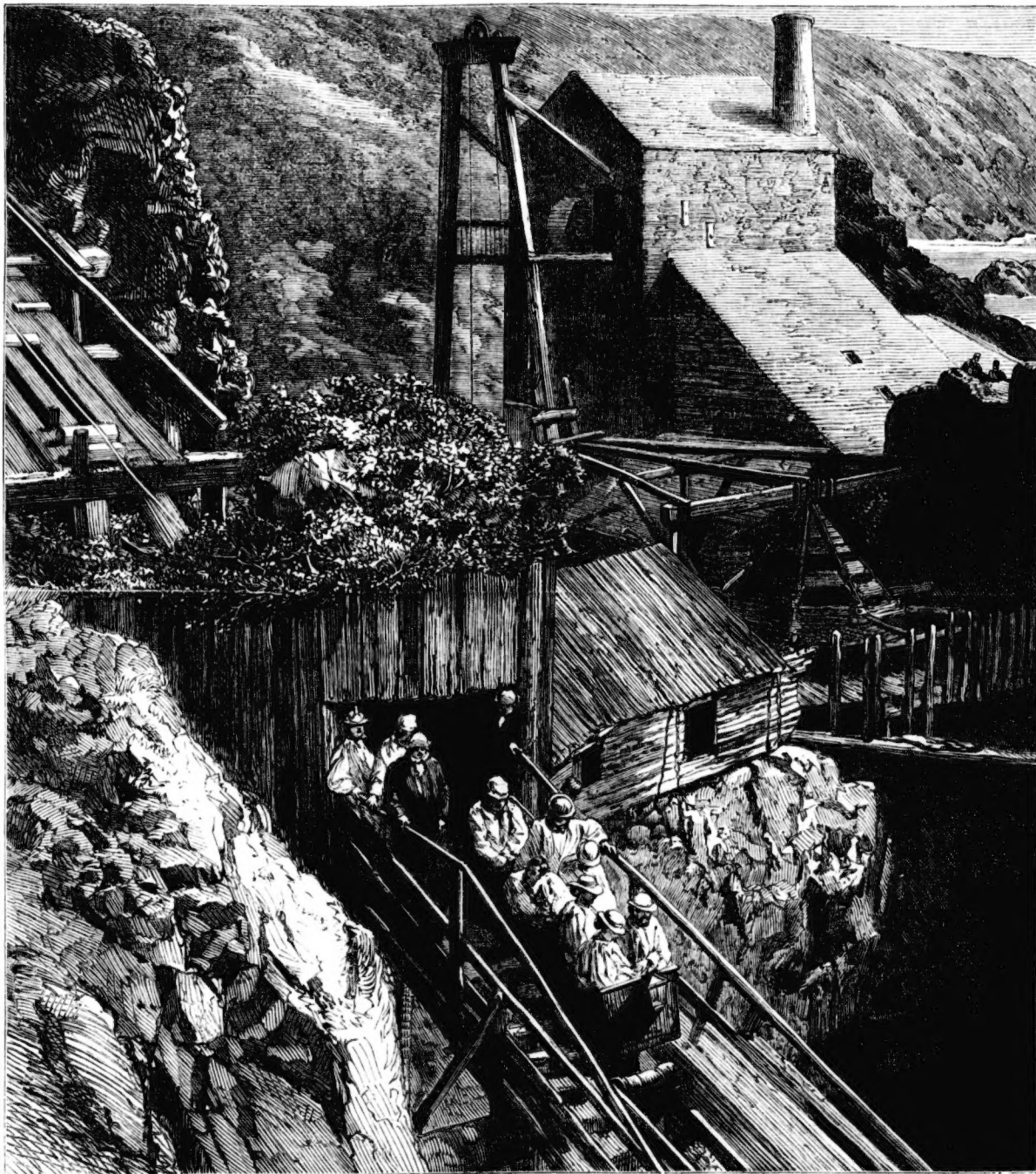
A LONDON STREET OYSTER-SELLER.

business in London! This writer knows at least five houses which do business under this name. The real Simon Pure, however, we understand, is he—J. S. Prosser, right—of Holborn-bars; and other shops having been established by a Prosser, and then disposed of to worthy successors. The principal oyster-fishing stations are Whitstable, Barnstable, Colchester, and Burnham. These are famous for the *natives*, held in such high esteem for eating a *naturel*, and which are patronised by those who can afford the high price charged. Southend and some other places supply "common" oysters, which are disposed of among the common people by such dealers as the old gentleman shown in our Engraving, who is dispensing his wares to the denizens of Greenwich. These common oysters are also used for making sauce, and for stewing, frying, scalloping, &c. Of course it is not to be supposed that the virtues of the "native" will be appreciated by the class of customers who patronise the street oyster-stall; "big uns, and fat, look yer!"—as we once heard demanded from an *al-fresco* merchant—being held more in estimation by the customers of the barrow and the stall. May the political economists, and the pisciculturists, and the Herne Bay Oyster Company, and all else whose business it is, soon be able to provide such a supply as will permit the mechanic and the coalheaver, their wives and children, to again enjoy their

address from the Mayor and Corporation of Penzance having been previously presented on board the Royal yacht. The town was gaily decorated with flags, triumphal arches, greenery, flowers, &c. The pier was lined by the 1st Duke of Cornwall Rifle Volunteers, commanded by Major-General Tremeneere, the muster being a very strong one on this occasion. Hearty cheers were given from boats, from the decks, yards, and rigging of trading-vessels, and from shore, as the Prince and Princess ascended the wooden stairs which had been specially constructed for their accommodation, and which, with the landing-stage, were covered with red cloth. The object of the Royal party was to visit the famous Botallack Mine, and suitable conveyances were provided for the journey.

The carriage containing the Prince and Princess was taken a little way roundabout, in order that her Royal Highness might bestow her name upon a road that has recently been opened, and also that the visitors might be shown a new range of buildings in process of erection opposite the residence of the Mayor. When finished, this granite structure will be an ornament to the town, which it will, at the same time, accommodate in a manner much desired. Penzance, with its small population of about 10,000 souls, happens to possess a library of the same number of volumes and a museum worthy to represent the geology of the district. Neither the museum nor library is yet housed as well as might be wished, and a part of the new buildings will be appropriated to their accommodation; while one of the wings will be used as the head-quarters and offices of the Corporation, in place of the inconvenient Townhall; and a room will also be afforded capable of holding a thousand people—such a room as Penzance does not now possess.

Regaining the direct road to Botallack Mine, the string of carriages proceeded through a wild country towards the wilder coast. The chief characteristic of the fields and highways, almost as much as of the unreclaimed tracts of moor, is the cropping up of rock. The roads seem to be



DESCENT OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES INTO THE BOTALLACK MINE, CORNWALL

half made of granite, as, indeed, they necessarily are, granite being at least half the natural formation of the ground. On quitting Penzance, the last human settlement worthy the name of a town is left behind, and the few groups of stone cottages, or huts, thence to the Land's End, can hardly be called villages. You may drive for miles and not see the face of man. In winter, the loneliness of these hills and plains must be piteous and terrible. They have a savage beauty, however, at the present time of year; and the weather on the occasion of the visit of their Royal Highnesses was so splendid as to show them at their best. On the road to Botallack we could distinctly make out the Scilly Isles on the horizon, putting a shadowy limit of hills to the broad bright expanse of sunlit sea. Coming down upon the coast, we have the mine and its engines in view; and anon we are threading the stone village of the miners. How many and how sharp are the turns we make in this threading process may be imagined when the configuration of a Cornish village is understood. The cottages are placed by ones, by twos, and by threes, anywhere and anyhow. This gives a pleasing uncertainty to the turnings; and, as there is no footpath distinguished from the carriage-way, it behoves a driver to be careful. The four-horse barouche of the Prince and Princess of Wales was brought to a stoppage at every corner; but, at last, it was got through the labyrinth, and was drawn past a low stone house, of much better appearance than its neighbours, with yellow lichen on its grey walls and roof, and with the date 1665 on the front that overlooked a prim little garden. This house belongs to Mr. Stephen Harvey James, purser and general superintendent of Botallack Mine. There is another house, of civilised, as well as picturesque, aspect, nearer the works. It is the counting-house, and was fitted up for the reception of the Prince and Princess and their party. A volunteer guard of honour was formed outside, and there was a pretty large muster of Cornish folk from all the surrounding parts of the country. The headland of Botallack



FASHIONS FOR AUGUST.

is a not less fearful headland than may be found on the whole line of this wild, savage, inaccessible coast. It is rock upon rock, precipice upon precipice, Ossa upon Pelion, and another Pelion upon that, with a crown of crags above all. The engine-house is built out upon a rock, separated by a horrible span from the main cliff, down whose tremendous sides heavy machinery and building materials had to be lowered 200 ft. There is another engine-house half way up the height, and yet another on the summit. The descent of the mine is by an inclined plane of from thirty-two to thirty-four degrees from the horizontal, the waggons being lowered on a tramway by means of a wire rope and windlass. The adventurous explorers of Botallack Mine on the occasion in question were divided into two parties, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Mr. and Lady Elizabeth St. Aubyn, and Lady De Grey being first conducted to the bowels of the earth by Mr. James. Previous to their descent, amid loud cheering, a general change of dresses was effected at the counting-house. All the ladies wore long white flannel cloaks, daintily trimmed with blue, and jaunty little hats, fashioned somewhat on the miner's model. The costume was quaint, but not at all unbecoming, and when they issued from the counting-house they looked like a band of penitents, except that they were unable to refrain from laughing. The Prince, the Duke of Sutherland, the Duke of St. Albans, Lord Vivian, the Earl of Mountcashell, General Knollys, Mr. St. Aubyn, Mr. John St. Aubyn, and the rest, wore flannel suits not unlike those of cricketers; some few had their heads bound with white linen, which gave them a rather Oriental appearance; and all, whether they adopted this gear or not, had stiff felt billycock hats, with candles stuck in front. The disguise was not so great in some instances as in others; the Prince might easily have been recognised by anybody who knew him; and the quiet, military bearing of General Knollys was no more affected by his strange attire than it is by a morning suit of tweed or by evening dress. The first level of the mine reached by the visitors is 70 fathoms from the surface, and the deepest, where the heat is very perceptibly increased, is 180 fathoms. Some of the levels extend a distance of more than 300 fathoms under the bed of the Atlantic; and the miners have in some parts actually worked through, so that the holes have had to be plugged. Should the water ever force its way in, there will be an end for ever to Botallack Mine. Often now, when storms rage above, when the thundering of the billows in their fierce rebounds, the rolling of heavy boulders, and the grinding and cracking of stones upon the rock, are so loud as to appal the miners themselves, who run for the shaft, preferring loss of time in their work to peril of their lives.

On coming up again from their visit to the bottom of the mine the Prince's party stopped for a few seconds in their car near the top of the incline that they might be photographed, and from the photograph then taken our Engraving has been made. Having changed their dress and taken luncheon, while other ladies and gentlemen descended, the Prince, the Dukes of Sutherland and St. Albans, and a few more of the party proceeded to the Land's End. The Princess of Wales had also intended to make this trip, but her Royal Highness was somewhat fatigued, and therefore returned at once to Mount St. Michael, where the Prince joined her in the evening at the dinner-table. The grand scenery of the precipitous coast, with its piled masses of columnar granite so peculiarly distinctive of this part of England, was heightened in effect by the magnificent weather. The Prince and his companions, climbing some of the highest and farthest projections of rock, sat for a little time quietly smoking their cigars as they looked out to the lighthouse and other objects jutting from the sea. Where the heights are not bare grey crag, they are beautifully covered with heaths and ferns, the former being in full bloom. Having enjoyed the scene for the space of about half an hour, the Prince got into the open carriage—an ordinary hired vehicle, with a pair of horses and a postilion—and returned with his friends to the mount near Penzance.

THE DUKEDOM OF CORNWALL.

In their congratulatory addresses on the occasion of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, the men of Cornwall called attention to the long-standing connection between the county and the Heir to the Throne, and respectfully expressed the joy they would feel in welcoming their Duke and Duchess. Cornishmen still treasure in their churches copies of the letter which Charles I. sent them in praise of their loyalty; but there is some reason for their peculiar feeling towards the Prince. The duchy is itself one of the deep things of the law; its tenure was pronounced by Lord Coke to be a great mystery, and, in our own days, Mr. Gladstone's great knowledge did not save him from blundering in expounding its nature. Mr. Augustus Smith and Sir John Trelawny made a joint effort to correct the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but the House of Commons only felt more confused after their explanations. It is commonly said that the Heir Apparent to the Crown is always the Duke of Cornwall; but, in fact, the Duke must not only be Heir Apparent, but the son of the Sovereign. The duchy was limited, at its creation, to the first-born son of the King—a phrase which was interpreted, in the case of Henry VII., Charles I., and Charles II., to take in the second son where the first had died without issue, but which does not take in the grandson where the eldest son dies in the life of his father, leaving issue. Thus, on the death of Frederick, Prince of Wales, the duchy did not descend to his son, afterwards George III., but reverted to the Crown. The duchy, however, is comparatively a thing of yesterday. It was, indeed, created in the person of the Black Prince, and is, therefore, the oldest of English duchies; but the estates annexed to it were long before that time the estates of the Earl of Cornwall, who was always a member of the Royal family. Earldoms, in our modern sense, did not exist at the time of the Conqueror, but his half-brother, Robert of Mortain, was Earl of the county, and held the property which now forms the greater part of the possessions of the duchy. The manors enumerated in "Domesday," some of which, the compilers boldly say, the Earl stole from the Church, are still manors of the duchy. Two centuries later the earldom was still held by Richard, the King of the Romans, who threw away the wealth it brought him, principally through the right of pre-emption of tin, in an attempt to grasp the Imperial Crown. The earldom lapsed again and again, but was regranted to some member of the Royal family until the death of Edward III.'s brother, John of Eltham, without issue, when it was finally merged in the duchy created by a charter of the King, and ratified and confirmed by a special Act of Parliament, and the estates, which had been held with it from the time of the Conquest, were settled upon the Duke in perpetuity.

The scenes which the Prince and Princess have lately visited recall the days, traces of which still exist in our political organisation, when South Wales was everything and North Wales was nothing. Edward III. was justified in the favour which he showed this outlying county, if the boast of the little town of Fowey be true. The inhabitants of that place, whose existence has almost died out of memory since the Reform Bill took away from it its privilege of sending two members to the House of Commons, assert, for the credit of their town, that it furnished more ships to the great fleet which Edward III. fitted out against France than any other town in the kingdom, Yarmouth excepted. The gallants of Fowey, as they called themselves, made the mariners of the cinque ports vaill their flags before them, and they seem to have been notorious enough, for long after, in a play of Webster, mention is made of a part-song—a three men's song—called "The Gallants of Fowey." At Lostwithiel the King of the Romans had his palace, and thither the tin was brought which furnished the wealth he threw away. Restormel, now a mere ivy-mantled keep, is one of the old fortresses which the Normans built as rallying points in the eastern part of the county in case of any sudden insurrection among the West Welshmen. But St. Michael's Mount is deservedly the best known of the places which the Royal party has just visited. Robert of Mortain got it from his half-brother, and, mindful of his own Normandy, and perhaps repenting a little for the manors he had stolen from the Church, gave it to the monks of Mont St. Michel. It may be doubted whether the Cornish or the Norman mount is the more striking object

much they have in common, but each has its own peculiar character. Mont St. Michel rises out of a waste of barren sand stretching away for miles towards the sea, which comes back and covers the flat expanse for an hour or two each day; while St. Michael's Mount is for eighteen hours an island, and during the remaining six it is only accessible from the main shore by a narrow strip of land reaching to one point of its base. The waves always wash the one, while the other is commonly encircled with sand. Mont St. Michel has an austere beauty, which in the case of the Cornish mount is softened and subdued by the perpetual play and motion of the sea. But on both the grey piles on their summits add the human interest without which nature is imperfect. The visitor to Mont St. Michel finds it rich in memories of Norman Dukes and French Kings; or, if his sympathies are with history of a later date, he may muse over the dungeons where the unhappy victims of successive political revolutions have been immured, and which have only within the last year been freed from such sad occupants. In the great rebellion the mount was fortified, but it played no great part in the history of the war. Its greatest historical distinction was in the Wars of the Roses, when the Earl of Oxford seized it for Margaret of Anjou; and a little later, when the noble Scotch wife of Perkin Warbeck was lodged there when her husband marched on to defeat and death.—Times.

A ROMANTIC MARRIAGE.

THE Dundee Courier publishes the following experiences of a commercial traveller, as illustrating the adage that "truth is stranger than fiction"—

The young man had wooed and won the affections of a young lady residing in Liverpool, and after a lengthened courtship marriage was at last resolved on. A house was taken and furnished, the marriage dresses provided, the day fixed, and the license obtained. But in the mean time the bridegroom had to cross the Channel and visit Cork, and through some unavoidable circumstance the day of the marriage had arrived ere he could leave that city. He had no good gent at command to convey him through the air to the western metropolis of England; but by the telegraph he could all but annihilate time and space, and he accordingly sent a message that the marriage must be postponed for at least one day. But the bride was by this time in readiness to proceed to church, the marriage party had assembled, and the effect of the reception of such a message may be imagined. Its immediate result was that the bride, with the unreasoning haste of a disappointed woman, replied by the same means, "The marriage must take place now or never." The unfortunate bridegroom received the unwelcome message as he was about to step on board the steamer which was to carry him to England. Downcast and dispirited, he took his place in the vessel, when the captain, a kindly son of Neptune, inquired the cause of his unusual melancholy and was told the tale we have given above. Well acquainted with the varying moods of the unstable sea, he knew also somewhat of the fickle fair, and consoled the disconsolate bridegroom by saying that he was well rid of such a partner; and, not content with good advice, he introduced him to a lady who occupied the state cabin, in the hope that cheerful intercourse with her might dispel the gloom on the spirits of his friend. The lady proved as agreeable a companion as the captain had promised. She was young and fair; and over a game of chess the young man poured his sorrows into a sympathetic ear. And now we come to the most wonderful part of the story. Confidence begets confidence, and the lady told how she, too, had a lover; but, instead of flying to his feet and longing to be forgiven, she was hurrying from him, and congratulating herself on every mile of sea which was placed between them. She was just entering on womanhood, and her admirer was almost threescore-and-ten, and she had no wish to be one in a union between May and December, notwithstanding that he had £3000 a year to recommend him. The disconsolate bridegroom began to be himself again; the spell of his fair fellow-voyager was upon him; and, in the impulse of the moment, he asked her if she would become his bride. She accepted; and they resolved that the marriage should be celebrated with all possible speed. On arriving at Liverpool, his groomsmen met him with the intelligence that his bride was anxiously waiting his arrival; but he received for reply that he had found it impossible to comply with her injunction, and had accepted the alternative. He meant to be married next day, but he had brought his bride with him. His friend was incredulous; but, on being introduced to the lady, his doubts were dispelled, and he became the unwilling bearer of the unwelcome message, and left their recipient in an agony of grief, disappointment, and self-reproach. It is needless to follow in detail the subsequent proceedings. A special license was procured, and before twelve o'clock next day, and after an acquaintance of little more than twenty-four hours, the young couple were man and wife.

GERMAN "LAMB" AND WELSH "MUTTON."—It is a fact not generally known that one half the German mutton coming to this country via Hamburg is sold in this metropolis for "lamb," at very remunerative prices. At cost price this meat may be purchased at from 8d. to 3½d. per lb., and it is selling in the butchers' shops at the advanced price of 8d. to 9d. per lb. The Merino sheep run remarkably small, more especially in bone, and seldom weigh more than 4½ stone, or 26½ lb. each. The superiority of their wool is the cause of their being bred. A large portion of the above meat is, moreover, passed off for Welsh mutton at some of the inferior butchers' shops.

DEATH OF A PARISIAN NOTABILITY.—"The Armenian," so well known to all frequenters of the Bibliothèque at Paris, has died in that city, of a fit of apoplexy, at the estimated age of ninety years. His proper name was the Abbé Kasanjan, and he first made his appearance in Europe when the French troops retired from Egypt in 1800. He was to be seen every day in the Bibliothèque in a long robe with wide sleeves crossed in front, his head surmounted with a little green cap. Some years ago he was made the subject of a harmless practical joke. A young man was "got up" in exactly the style of the Abbé, and on a given morning entered the Bibliothèque without attracting more than the attention usually given to the Armenian. He gravely deposited himself in the seat sacred to that individual, and was deep in the perusal of a large volume, when all present were astounded with the apparent second entrance of the venerable Abbé, who was himself as astonished as anyone to see his own counterpart in his own seat perusing, with his own huge spectacles, some of his favourite volumes. The intruder was got rid of by the attendants with as much gravity as they could muster, and the dethroned monarch was restored to his usurped throne.

PRINCESS DAGMAR AND THE LADIES OF RUSSIA.—The following interesting letter has been addressed by Princess Dagmar to the Empress of Russia, in acknowledging a present to the Princess by the ladies of St. Petersburg and Moscow:—"Bernstorff, July 8, 1865. Madam.—Only a few weeks my prayers to the Almighty were being joined with those from so many Russian hearts for the preservation of the life of the Grand Duke, heir of Russia, my beloved affianced husband. It has pleased Divine Providence to decide otherwise, and to snatch from our affection him who would have been the source of our happiness. By the gracious intercession of your Majesty that general feeling of profound grief has just been expressed to me on the part of the ladies of St. Petersburg and Moscow, by the precious gift of a cross and a Bible. It is to your Majesty's maternal heart that I venture to confide the sincere expression of a deeply-felt gratitude, which takes its origin in a sentiment of grief shared by so many, and which will never be effaced. This Holy Bible and sacred cross will always remind me that Russia, which country has become so dear to me, seeks her strength and her consolation in the words of the Almighty, and bears with faith and resignation the cross which Heaven imposes on her. May those ladies accept my affectionate thanks for the Christian consolation which they have kindly offered me. I pray to God to bear my prayers for the Emperor, for yourself, Madam, and for Russia. Believe me to be most faithful and devoted to your Imperial Majesty.—DAGMAR."

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., vice-president, in the chair. Mr. Lewis, the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, a reward of £7 10s. was voted to the crew of the life-boat of the institution at North Deal for putting off during a strong north-westerly wind in reply to signals of distress from the Gull light-ship to the assistance of a collier brig which had struck on the Brake Sand, off Deal, on the 22nd ult. As the tide rose the vessel fortunately succeeded in getting off the Sand. Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of shore-boats and others for saving life from wrecks on the coasts of the United Kingdom. Payments amounting to £1675 were ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The institution decided to place new life-boats at Whitehaven, Cumberland; Kingsdown, near Deal; Hauxley, Northumberland; Wicklow, and at Courtown, Cahore, and Rosslare, on the coast of Wexford. It was reported that Messrs. Forrest and Son, of Lamehouse, had just sent three additional life-boats to the French Shipwreck Society. They were built under the superintendence of the institution. Three more life-boats were being built for the French society. During the past month the institution had sent new life-boats to Maryport, on the Cumberland coast, and to Peterhead, N.B. Great demonstrations had taken place at both places on the arrival of the life-boats. The several railway companies had, as usual, readily given the boats a free conveyance to their respective stations. A public launch had also taken place with the Commercial Traveller life-boat, stationed at Piel, on the Lancashire coast. A valuable report was read from Captain Ward, R.N., the inspector of life-boats of the institution, on his recent visit to the life-boat stations on the Irish coast and to some of the English life-boat establishments. With few exceptions, the life-boats were in excellent order. It was stated that the late Mrs. Warner, of Widcombe, Somerset, had bequeathed a legacy to the institution for the purchase of a life-boat. The members of the Ancient Order of Foresters had transmitted an additional liberal contribution of £90 ls. in aid of the Forester life-boat, stationed at Newquay, Cardiganshire.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE great operatic news of the day is the project entertained by Mr. Gye for transferring the management of the Royal Italian Opera to a limited liability company. Some of our contemporaries speak of this project as if it were sure to be carried out; and we must indeed suppose that Mr. Gye would not have announced it unless he had received ample promises of support. But the company is not yet formed; and, even if it were now in existence, it is not by any means certain that it would be able to make the arrangement with the director of Her Majesty's Theatre which Mr. Gye regards as a necessary part of his scheme. It is proposed that Mr. Mapleson should cede all interest in Her Majesty's Theatre to the company; and, as a step towards this result, it is stated that Earl Dudley, the proprietor of the building, is quite willing that he should do so. In the mean while, as Mr. Mapleson himself has not yet come to terms, it is premature to state that there are henceforth to be no rival Italian operas in London.

The season at the Royal Italian Opera came to an end on Saturday last, when "L'Africaine" was played for the fourth time. In the generally interesting, frequently witty, sometimes erroneous, and occasionally absurd, "Life of Rossini" published by Stendhal, alias Bombet, whose true name was Beyle, and who stole all the substance of his "Life" from Carpani's "Le Rossiniane, ossia Letture musico-tearali," a most remarkable account of "Semiramide" is given. Stendhal, according to one of his critics, who evidently never read him, "était à genoux devant Rossini et doutait de l'amour!" Neither statement is true; but, as to Rossini, Stendhal only went down on his knees when Carpani went down, and got up again when Carpani got up. "The Germanism of 'Zelmira' is nothing compared to that of 'Semiramide'" may be regarded as one of the most curious observations contained in the "Vie de Rossini." "It seems to me" (that is, to Carpani)—the so-called Stendhal goes on to say—"that Rossini has here committed a geographical error. This opera, which at Venice only escaped being hissed on account of Rossini's great name, would, perhaps, have been thought sublime at Königsberg or Berlin. Rossini will end by being more German than Beethoven." In another part of the same work "Semiramide" is spoken of briefly as "an opera in the German style." A French critic, writing on his own responsibility (we apologise beforehand to M. Méry, the arranger of the opera for the French Académie, if we err in attributing the remark to him), has said that when he hears "Semiramide" he is himself suddenly transported to the East, and that crocodiles and other monsters in keeping with the character of the work appear before him.

Why this Semiramidal music, which to Stendhal (through Carpani) suggested Königsberg and Berlin, should have made another critic see crocodiles, we have never been able to understand. We saw no crocodile at Her Majesty's Theatre as we listened to the mellifluous singing of Mdle. Trebelli in the part of Arsace; and, if the Semiramide of Mdle. Titiens did, now and then, remind us of Königsberg and Berlin, that was owing to the "Germanism," not of the part, but of the vocalist intrusted with it, to whom the thoroughly Italian music of this, the last of Rossini's operas, written specially for Italy, is not well suited. Mdle. Titiens's fine voice is often heard to advantage in "Semiramide," especially in the recitatives, which she declaims magnificently; but it is not as a singer of florid music that she has gained the high reputation which she deservedly enjoys, and no one could form a just conception of her talent who had heard her, not in "Don Giovanni," "Fidelio," or "Les Huguenots," but in "Semiramide" alone.

It was for the sake of Mdle. Trebelli's singing that "Semiramide," as recently played at Her Majesty's Theatre, was especially worth hearing. It is a piece of good fortune for Mdle. Trebelli to have such music to sing; but it is very trying for her associates in the opera, and with the exception of Mdle. Titiens, whose performance, in whatever character she appears, is sure to possess some merit, they cannot be said to have acquitted themselves very creditably. But from the first phrase in her opening recitative, "Eccomi alfin in Babilonia," which she delivers in a style worthy of Alboni, Mdle. Trebelli's performance of the part of Arsace—the last really great part written for the contralto—was a continued triumph. In spite of our two so-called "Italian" companies, Mdle. Trebelli is the only singer we have had, this year, in London, who, though not an Italian by birth, sings to perfection the contralto music of genuine Italian opera. Our opera companies, however, are now only Italian in name. One of our contemporaries pointed out, the other day, that the cast of "Un Ballo in Maschera," as represented at Her Majesty's Theatre, included a German soprano, a Hungarian soprano, a Spanish tenor, and an English baritone; and it very often happens both at Her Majesty's Theatre and at the Royal Italian Opera, that neither the work performed nor the singers performing it are Italian.

Perhaps it would be a good plan to adopt the Italian language generally as the language of music. Even now the study of Italian is an essential part of a singer's education; while, as regards the public, most operatic habitués have picked up at least enough Italian to be able to follow an Italian vocalist, which in the case of an English vocalist singing English is often by no means an easy matter. Every really successful opera, in whatever language it may originally have been written, finds its way, sooner or later, into Italian; and it might save trouble to have all librettos written in the first instance, and as a matter of course, in the true musical language of Europe—just as, formerly, all learned works were written in the Latin tongue. This, to be sure, would throw the whole of the libretto trade into the hands of Italian poets; but the preparation of opera books is not, in England at least, a branch of manufacture which deserves to be specially protected.

The regular season at Her Majesty's Theatre terminated a fortnight ago. The last of the extra performances takes place this evening.

Mr. Alfred Mellon's annual series of promenade concerts commences next Monday, at the Royal Italian Opera. Mdle. Carlotta Patti, Mdle. Liebhart, Signor Ferranti, Mdle. Marie Krebs, Signor Bottesini, Mr. Carrodus, and Mr. Levy, are engaged. Among other attractive novelties a selection from "L'Africaine" (for the orchestra) is announced.

THE PHABODY GIFT.—It will be remembered that rather more than three years since—in March, 1862—Mr. Peabody, the American merchant, declared his intention of placing in the hands of certain gentlemen whom he named as trustees the sum of £150,000 for the benefit of the honest and industrious poor of the metropolis, and recommended that a portion of the money should be appropriated to the purpose of providing improved dwelling-houses for the working classes. Accordingly it was determined to purchase the site of a pile of buildings known as Ward's-place, Lower-road, or, as it is now called, Essex-road, Islington, at that time densely occupied by a community for the most part consisting of thieves, prostitutes, and some of the worst characters in the metropolis, who herded together with little or no attention to morality or decency. The old houses were speedily levelled, and the erection of the handsome structures which is now rapidly approaching completion was forthwith commenced. The building is substantially constructed of brick, and is from a design by Mr. H. A. Darbishire, the builders being Messrs. Patman and Fotheringham, who have also received orders to erect similar dwelling-houses, likewise the gift of Mr. Peabody, in Love-lane, Shadwell, and Commercial-street, Shoreditch. The model buildings consist of four blocks of houses five stories in height, which will be let out in tenements of one, two, and three rooms, at an estimated rental of 2s., 3s., and 5s. per week respectively. Each block will afford accommodation for sixty families, or 240 in the aggregate. The rooms are each of them to be 9 ft. wide and 12 ft. long, and of a suitable height. The attic of each block is paved with tiles from the Isle of Wight, and is surmounted by a handsome ornamental turret. There is also accommodation for washing, drying, &c.; and at each end of the buildings is a cistern 12 ft. long, 6 ft. wide, and 4 ft. deep, capable of containing 1760 gallons of water. Everything has been done to render the sanitary arrangements complete in every respect. It is contemplated to erect workshops for the accommodation of the tenants on the east side of the blocks. These, however, although, of course, under the control of the trustees, will be irrespective of Mr. Peabody's gift, and will be let at a very moderate rental. Numerous applications have already been made for tenements by men whose wages average from 18s. to 20s. per week, the class for whom they were intended by the benevolent donor; but none will be taken whose character does not bear the strictest investigation.

LAW AND CRIME.

DR. PRITCHARD may yet be the cause of many an execution. He has done more, by being hanged, to delay the abolition of capital punishment than any of its most stubborn advocates. At first the trial had portrayed to them an eminent physician, of sufficient means, with the manners of a gentleman, and at least the external semblance of piety, if not of sanctity, poisoning his wife and her mother with scarcely the appearance of an incentive. It now appears all explicable enough. Pritchard was no physician at all, only a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company. His diploma of Doctor was obtained from one of those needy German Universities which notoriously confer such exceedingly dubitable honours, for a pecuniary consideration, upon a sham examination. He was needy and unsuccessful, an habitual utterer of falsehood, and notorious for brag and incompetence. His object in murdering his wife is now suggested to have been the acquirement of a fortune by a second marriage. The mother-in-law was disposed of because she would have been a most watchful and inconvenient witness. And as the man lived so he died. Seldom was criminal so thoroughly homogeneous. He makes a false confession, implicating in his crime a poor servant-girl, whom he had already robbed of virtue and character. He tells transparent lies, even while shedding tears. Says he, "My mother-in-law died from an accidental overdose of Battley's solution. After her death I put aconite into the bottle in her pocket, in order to make it appear that her death was the result of misadventure." When he confesses in earnest, it is just such a confession as he considers necessary to enable him to find favour with his spiritual advisers. There is no dismay at his own sin; not a word of sympathy or pity for the two poor women whom he doomed to deaths of lingering torment. He professes repentance in his converse with the clerical gentlemen who crowd his cell, regarding him as a most interesting case, and doubtless taking notes of his "experiences," favourite texts, hymns, and so forth, for sensational articles in pious periodicals. By bandying scriptural phrases with his visitors, he fills his dungeon and escapes the horrors of solitude with his own thoughts. When he goes to be hanged, it is not with the air of a repentant, justly-condemned culprit, but with the support of an overweening vanity which impels him to meet his fate courageously. He puts on a pair of black kid gloves to be hanged in, the old conventional pretences clinging to him to the last, and marches steadily, in the suit of mourning which he wore at the grave of his murdered wife, to the gallows which his last human act appears to have been an effort to invest with an air of respectability. No wonder that, for the first time in all his life, Calcraft was cheered by a jubilant mob, who even shouted their delight when the wretched hypocrite, impostor, and murderer plunged through the aperture left by the falling drop.

A wretched cripple, named Jarvis, stood forward in the dock at Croydon Assizes, to answer a charge of stabbing with intent to murder. A second count of the indictment alleged the offence of cutting and wounding only. The prisoner had long been a convict. His particular line was the uttering of forged notes, and he appears to have been, for the last twenty years, no sooner out of gaol on a ticket of leave than again convicted and sentenced to an increased term of penal servitude. He was sorely vexed by a painful disease, which must have greatly added to his irritability. One day he was visited by a Scripture-reader, named Mose. Mr. Mose inquired of the poor creature as to the state of his health, to which Jarvis replied, "I am poorly, very poorly." Witness (Mr. Mose) "remarked that perhaps the weather had something to do with it, and then said to the prisoner that it was well, among the storms and sorrows of this life, to look upwards to the joys of a brighter world." Now, no doubt, this was a very charming observation, coherent and pertinent to the matter in hand, and calculated in the highest degree to soothe and rejoice the troubled nerves of a criminal lying painfully sick in prison. But Jarvis only replied to it by starting up in bed and sticking a knife twice into the arm of his spiritual guide, philosopher, and friend. There was no great harm done. What with broadcloth and adipose tissue the injuries were confined chiefly to a shock to the nervous system of the Scripture-reader.

Jarvis was a man of many grievances. He did not approve of the prison diet, which in his case was so far inappropriate, inasmuch as it aggravated his disorder and caused him dreadful physical agony. Nor did he admire the system by which prisoners, ill or well, were aroused every two hours by the harsh warden. He thought it was wrong, when he was lying ill, that the gaolers should open windows opposite his bed's head, by day and night, and thereby cause him a relapse, with the addition of deafness. He had his own notions as to the propriety of allowing offences by the male convicts to be perpetrated without the slightest restraint by the prison authorities. Heremongered upon these matters, and was met by incarceration in a punishment-ward, and worse treatment than ever. So, wishing to bring his troubles before the public, he stabbed the only man he ever loved (so runs his statement), and thus obtained an opportunity. All this Jarvis laid fairly and eloquently before the jury, who evidently sympathized with him, and convicted him on the mirror count only. The Judge, Mr. Justice Keating, appears to have considered the prisoner somewhat unduly particular as to his treatment. "Convict prisons," said his Lordship, "were intended to be places of punishment; but the prisoner did not seem to think that this was their object." Jarvis was sentenced to five years' penal servitude from the day of his sentence, so as to cover and include his former term with an excess of three years. It is, nevertheless, desirable that his statements, put forward with such practical earnestness, should form the subject of investigation.

A fellow was tried at Maidstone for the murder of his child at Woolwich. The mother had died shortly after her confinement, and the baby was treated by the father with cruel neglect. One night he left his home with a parcel, and engaged a waterman to row him far out upon the Thames, saying that he wished to sink a litter of drowned puppies, adding that his landlady had given him a flat iron to put into the parcel with them. Arrived at a convenient place, he threw the package overboard, and was returning to shore when, upon looking back, he called out to the waterman,

"Good God! it has not sunk! Put back, put back!" The boatman refused, but the parcel sunk gradually. Days after it floated again, and was found to contain the body of the prisoner's child, with a fractured skull. By some very reprehensible oversight, there was no medical evidence that the fractured skull was the cause of death, and the jury acquitted the prisoner, to his own undisguised astonishment.

POLICE.

SAUSAGES FOR THE MILLION.—Francis Cousins, of Durham-grove, Homerton, sausage manufacturer, appeared upon an information laid by Dr. Tripe, medical officer of health for the Hackney district, that, in contravention of the provisions of the Nuisance Removal Amendment Act, he did, on the 24th of July last, have on his premises six pieces of meat there deposited for preparation for sale, and intended for the food of man, the said meat being unfit for such food, and since destroyed by order of the sitting magistrate.

Mr. Shorter, clerk to the trustees of Hackney parish, attended to prosecute, and, in the course of an opening statement, designated the offence in question as one at all times of a serious and dangerous character, but especially so now, when there existed every reasonable belief that much summer illness was approaching and disease among cattle rapidly spreading. Numerous complaints from the defendant's neighbours had induced the board to adopt these proceedings against him, visitations to his premises having justified the same; and it would be found that, under the powers of the Act, he had laid himself open to penalties amounting to about £120 or an imprisonment of eighteen months.

Mr. Vann, on the part of defendant, protested against much of this statement.

Mr. Shorter would, moreover, say that defendant had been repeatedly cautioned that penalties would be sought for and enforced if he persisted. It was impossible to conceive any offence more serious than that of selling bad meat, or one so highly dangerous to the public.

Dr. Tripe was then sworn and stated—I have visited the defendant's premises on several occasions. On the date in question I inspected some meat there in a pickle-tub—about half a cwt., in six pieces. I perceived maggots floating about on the top of the pickle. Defendant assaulted me—said they intended to use the meat themselves—and threatened me with an action. I brought the meat in a cart to this court. The stench made me ill, and I have been so since; it was calculated to produce bowel complaint and vomiting, if nothing else.

Cross-examined—I did not fling it among slush or on any filth before I brought it here. Defendant was against my wish trying to wash two pieces of the meat, and I placed them on the ground. To the best of my belief the meat was in preparation for sale.

Mr. Cooke—Where was it?

Dr. Tripe—In the manufactory, Sir. A small quantity of other meat was also there.

Mr. Cooke—And near the machinery for manufacture?

Dr. Tripe—Yes. Defendant's wife said they would bring an action against me for stopping their men from proceeding with their work.

Robert Valentine, Inspector of Nuisances—I accompanied Dr. Tripe to defendant's premises. A great number of pieces of meat were in the pickle-tub—beef flank. They smelt most offensively. Six pieces were seized. They were completely unfit for food; in fact, putrid, stinking meat, that was green.

Mr. Vann, for the defence, remarked that the matter before the Court was assuredly a public one, and ought to be dealt with as such. He contended that there was an absence of evidence that the meat was intended for sale or for the use of man, and that this objection must be fatal to the summons against his client, who had been a ratepayer to the parish for twenty-five years, but must, if convicted of the offence, become a ruined man. Witnesses would prove that the meat in question had been placed in the pickle to preserve it, and if when required it was found bad it would have been thrown aside. Defendant was a large wholesale dealer in sausages, and heavy loss would be consequent upon his mixing bad or tainted meat with that which was good. With respect to the meat being bad, it was only to be observed that, at times, the atmosphere rendered every effort to prevent a sudden turn totally impracticable.

Frederick Taylor said—I am an inspector of all meats brought to defendant's manufactory. Eight or nine pieces of flank of beef came from Newgate Market on the Saturday previous to Dr. Tripe coming. There was also other meat. What was not immediately wanted I directed to be put in brine until the following Monday. It was then very hot weather. It on then examining it I had found it bad, I should have directed it to be boiled down for the pigs. The engine-man would see it after me, and on detecting a bad piece that had recaped my notice would throw it aside. A small portion of bad meat will spoil £10 worth. In extremely hot weather meat never "sets." I have known meat turn in one hour. I have been a butcher all my life.

Cross-examined—I know a man named "Whip." I have had nine months' imprisonment for slaughtering a cow that was not my own. I never "passed" a quarter of beef with the lung disease. Have been with the defendant twelve months. Saw no maggots on the water in the pickle-tub. Did not look. Did not run away when I saw Dr. Tripe. A thunderstorm will always prevent meat settling; it will separate the fibres of the meat and make them soft.

Thomas Dixon—I am manager of the chopping-machine on defendant's premises. Did not inspect the meat in question. If anything passes into my hands that is bad I fling it aside, or it would spoil the other meat.

This being the whole of the evidence,

Mr. Cooke, in dealing with it, said—This is a question requiring considerable caution, even in approaching, for while, on the one hand, an extensive business may be the decision be considerably disadvantaged, on the other hand, the public claim to be protected from every probability of having bad meat passed upon them. The Act under which these proceedings are taken is a new and excellent Act, and the penalties heavy, but not too heavy for the magnitude of the offence and the protection of the public. The attorney for the defence contends that it has not been proved that the meat was prepared for the use of man. Fortunately, the letter of this Act throws the onus on the defendant to prove that it was not. I shall look at the general facts, and, reasonably, I trust, judge of the whole matter. The meat was found close to the machinery employed in the manufacture of sausages. What was the answer to that at the time? Not that which is now set up for the defence by Mr. Vann, but a threat made by defendant's wife, that an action should be brought against the medical officer for stopping the work of her servants. I think this all important. If the meat was, as has been sworn, taken into the house on the Saturday, and found on the following Monday in brine bad, then I believe it was bad when placed there, and known by defendant to be so. I saw it a short time after being brought here on the Monday, and since I have sat in this court never smelt or witnessed anything so fearfully bad. Upon the sworn evidence before me I am prepared to convict. I am uncertain whether I ought not to inflict the full penalty, but doubtless this proceeding will be a caution to the defendant. His business should and will suffer very considerably from any conviction, and in this belief I direct that he pay a penalty of £5, with costs.

Mr. Shorter intimated that it was his intention to apply for a summons against the defendant for the assault on Dr. Tripe.

ROBBERY FROM AN UNITED STATES BANK.

CAPTURE OF THE ROBBER IN LIVERPOOL.
On the 22nd of May last the Townsend Savings Bank in Newhaven, Connecticut, was robbed of 100,000 dols. by one of the confidential clerks, named Jeremiah Townsend. On the evening of the robbery Townsend requested to be allowed to stay in the office, as he was desirous of posting up his books. The money was lodged in an iron safe, which was opened and shut by one of the celebrated "combination locks." Townsend, by some at present unknown means, managed to secure the "cipher" and keys

from one of the head clerks of the bank, and in the course of the evening he must have opened the safe, abstracted his booty, and made off. On the discovery of the robbery the excitement was intense, and information was at once sent to all the principal cities of the States and Europe. Several weeks elapsed, but no traces of the robber could be obtained until June 16, when it was discovered that a draught for 2500 dols. had been negotiated at Drexel's Bank, Philadelphia, it being presented by a man named Ryan. Ryan was communicated with, and it was found that he came into possession of the draught honestly enough. He stated that when on his way from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati he became acquainted with a man named Strawbridge (an alias of Townsend), and went with him to Havannah. On leaving Townsend there the latter gave him the 5000 dols. note to go to Philadelphia with and get cashed for gold. Ryan was then to go to Newhaven and give the money to a young lady at that place, telling her at the same time to take the steamer and meet Townsend at St. Thomas's, while he (Ryan) was to proceed at once to Liverpool to take apartments in the Queen's Hotel, at the place where they were all to meet. Townsend having left Havannah for St. Thomas's, information was given to Carlin and Callanan, the Philadelphia detectives, who at once, in company with Dr. Townsend, one of the directors of the bank, proceeded to Boston, where they caught the Cunard steamer China on the 19th ult., and arrived in Liverpool on Saturday morning last. Here they ascertained that the Shannon, one of the West Indian mail-steamer had reached Southampton that morning. There was no time to lose; so, under assumed names, the Yankee detectives went and took apartments at the Queen's Hotel, but Dr. Townsend, from a matter of prudence, was placed in private apartments. On Saturday night, about half-past ten o'clock, on the arrival of the down-train from London at the Lime-street station, Townsend jumped lightly on to the platform, and, after making some inquiries from the porters, proceeded to the Pelican Hotel, on the Islington flags, close to the station. The lynx-eyed detectives, however, were on his trail, and watched him to the Pelican. He made arrangements for lodging for the night, and, after some refreshment, sauntered down to the Queen's Hotel, and inquired if Mr. Ryan was there. Receiving an answer in the negative, he proceeded back to the Pelican, where he passed the night. In the mean time the assistance of two Liverpool detectives, Horne and Carlin, was procured; and early on Sunday morning the four detectives were on the *qui vive*. As soon as the doors of the Pelican were thrown open, Carlin walked in, while the others were conveniently placed. A few minutes before breakfast Mr. Townsend made his appearance, when he was confronted by Carlin. Townsend placed his right hand behind his back; but, before he could do mischief, he was secured by the other detectives. On being searched, a loaded revolver was found in his coat pocket, and, on other parts of his clothes, 42,000 dols. in notes. His luggage was next examined, when a second loaded revolver was discovered, besides 56,000 dols. in gold and a quantity of jewellery. There being no mistake about his identity, he was kept until Wednesday afternoon, when he and his custodians, on board the steamer Etna, sailed away for the "land of liberty." What has become of the "young lady of Newhaven" and the 5000 dols. in gold we know not.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

SCARCELY any change has taken place in the value of Home Stocks during the week, and the operations, generally, have continued on a restricted scale. Consols, for Money, have been done at 90½; 4½; 10½; to the next Account, 90½; 10½; and New Three per Cent. 90½; 10½; Exchange Bills, par to 3s. prem. Bank 80½; 10½; 20½; 30½; 40½; 50½; 60½; 70½; 80½; 90½; 100½; 110½; 120½; 130½; 140½; 150½; 160½; 170½; 180½; 190½; 200½; 210½; 220½; 230½; 240½; 250½; 260½; 270½; 280½; 290½; 300½; 310½; 320½; 330½; 340½; 350½; 360½; 370½; 380½; 390½; 400½; 410½; 420½; 430½; 440½; 450½; 460½; 470½; 480½; 490½; 500½; 510½; 520½; 530½; 540½; 550½; 560½; 570½; 580½; 590½; 600½; 610½; 620½; 630½; 640½; 650½; 660½; 670½; 680½; 690½; 700½; 710½; 720½; 730½; 740½; 750½; 760½; 770½; 780½; 790½; 800½; 810½; 820½; 830½; 840½; 850½; 860½; 870½; 880½; 890½; 900½; 910½; 920½; 930½; 940½; 950½; 960½; 970½; 980½; 990½; 1000½; 1010½; 1020½; 1030½; 1040½; 1050½; 1060½; 1070½; 1080½; 1090½; 1100½; 1110½; 1120½; 1130½; 1140½; 1150½; 1160½; 1170½; 1180½; 1190½; 1200½; 1210½; 1220½; 1230½; 1240½; 1250½; 1260½; 1270½; 1280½; 1290½; 1300½; 1310½; 1320½; 1330½; 1340½; 1350½; 1360½; 1370½; 1380½; 1390½; 1400½; 1410½; 1420½; 1430½; 1440½; 1450½; 1460½; 1470½; 1480½; 1490½; 1500½; 1510½; 1520½; 1530½; 1540½; 1550½; 1560½; 1570½; 1580½; 1590½; 1600½; 1610½; 1620½; 1630½; 1640½; 1650½; 1660½; 1670½; 1680½; 1690½; 1700½; 1710½; 1720½; 1730½; 1740½; 1750½; 1760½; 1770½; 1780½; 1790½; 1800½; 1810½; 1820½; 1830½; 1840½; 1850½; 1860½; 1870½; 1880½; 1890½; 1900½; 1910½; 1920½; 1930½; 1940½; 1950½; 1960½; 1970½; 1980½; 1990½; 2000½; 2010½; 2020½; 2030½; 2040½; 2050½; 2060½; 2070½; 2080½; 2090½; 2100½; 2110½; 2120½; 2130½; 2140½; 2150½; 2160½; 2170½; 2180½; 2190½; 2200½; 2210½; 2220½; 2230½; 2240½; 2250½; 2260½; 2270½; 2280½; 2290½; 2300½; 2310½; 2320½; 2330½; 2340½; 2350½; 2360½; 2370½; 2380½; 2390½; 2400½; 2410½; 2420½; 2430½; 2440½; 2450½; 2460½; 2470½; 2480½; 2490½; 2500½; 2510½; 2520½; 2530½; 2540½; 2550½; 2560½; 2570½; 2580½; 2590½; 2600½; 2610½; 2620½; 2630½; 2640½; 2650½; 2660½; 2670½; 2680½; 2690½; 2700½; 2710½; 2720½; 2730½; 2740½; 2750½; 2760½; 2770½; 2780½; 2790½; 2800½; 2810½; 2820½; 2830½; 2840½; 2850½; 2860½; 2870½; 2880½; 2890½; 2900½; 2910½; 2920½; 2930½; 2940½; 2950½; 2960½; 2970½; 2980½; 2990½; 3000½; 3010½; 3020½; 3030½; 3040½; 3050½; 3060½; 3070½; 3080½; 3090½; 3100½; 3110½; 3120½; 3130½; 3140½; 3150½; 3160½; 3170½; 3180½; 3190½; 3200½; 3210½; 3220½; 3230½; 3240½; 3250½; 3260½; 3270½; 3280½; 3290½; 3300½; 3310½; 3320½; 3330½; 3340½; 3350½; 3360½; 3370½; 3380½; 3390½; 3400½; 3410½; 3420½; 3430½; 3440½; 3450½; 3460½; 3470½; 3480½; 3490½; 3500½; 3510½; 3520½; 3530½; 3540½; 3550½; 3560½; 3570½; 3580½; 3590½; 3600½; 3610½; 3620½; 3630½; 3640½; 3650½; 3660½; 3670½; 3680½; 3690½; 3700½; 3710½; 3720½; 3730½; 3740½; 3750½; 3760½; 3770½; 3780½; 3790½; 3800½; 3810½; 3820½; 3830½; 3840½; 3850½; 3860½; 3870½; 3880½; 3890½; 3900½; 3910½; 3920½; 3930½; 3940½; 3950½; 3960½; 3970½; 3980½; 3990½; 4000½; 4010½; 4020½; 4030½; 4040½; 4050½; 4060½; 4070½; 4080½; 4090½; 4100½; 4110½; 4120½; 4130½; 4140½; 4150½; 4160½; 4170½; 4180½; 4190½; 4200½; 4210½; 4220½; 4230½; 4240½; 4250½; 4260½; 4270½; 4280½; 4290½; 4300½; 4310½; 4320½; 4330½; 4340½; 4350½; 4360½; 4370½; 4380½; 4390½; 4400½; 4410½; 4420½; 4430½; 4440½; 4450½; 4460½; 4470½; 4480½; 4490½; 4500½; 4510½; 4520½; 4530½; 4540½; 4550½; 4560½; 4570½; 4580½; 4590½; 4600½; 4610½; 4620½; 4630½; 4640½; 4650½; 4660½; 4670½; 4680½; 4690½; 4700½; 4710½; 4720½; 4730½; 4740½; 4750½; 4760½; 4770½; 4780½; 4790½; 4800½; 4810½; 4820½; 4830½; 4840½; 4850½; 4860½; 4870½; 4880½; 4890½; 4900½; 4910½; 4920½; 4930½; 4940½; 4950½; 4960½; 4970½; 4980½; 4990½; 5000½; 5010½; 5020½; 5030½; 5040½; 5050½; 5060½; 5070½; 5080½; 5090½; 5100½; 5110½; 5120½; 5130½; 5140½; 5150½; 5160½; 5170½; 5180½; 5190½; 5200½; 5210½; 5220½; 5230½; 5240½; 5250½; 5260½; 5270½; 5280½; 5290½; 5300½; 5310½; 5320½; 5330½; 5340½; 5350½; 5360½; 5370½; 5380½; 5390½; 5400½; 5410½; 5420½; 5430½; 5440½; 5450½; 5460½; 5470½; 5480½; 5490½; 5500½; 5510½; 5520½; 5530½; 5540½; 5550½; 5560½; 5570½; 5580½; 5590½; 5600½; 5610½; 5620½; 5630½; 5640½; 5650½; 5660½; 5670½; 5680½; 5690½; 5700½; 5710½; 5720½; 5730½; 5740½; 5750½; 5760½; 5770½; 5780½; 5790½; 5800½; 5810½; 5820½; 5830½; 5840½; 5850½; 5860½; 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7300½; 7310½; 7320½; 7330½; 7340½; 7350½; 7360½; 7370½; 7380½; 7390½; 7400½; 7410½; 7420½; 7430½; 7440½; 7450½; 7460½; 7470½; 7480½; 7490½; 7500½; 7510½; 7520½; 7530½; 7540½; 7550½; 7560½; 7570½; 7580½; 7590½; 7600½; 7610½; 7620½; 7630½; 7640½; 7650½; 7660½; 7670½; 7680½; 7690½; 7700½; 7710½; 7720½; 7730½; 7740½; 7750½; 7760½; 7770½; 7780½; 7790½; 7800½; 7810½; 7820½; 7830½; 7840½; 7850½; 7860½; 7870½; 7880½; 7890½; 7900½; 7910½; 7920½; 7930½; 7940½; 7950½; 7960½; 7970½; 7980½; 7990½; 8000½; 8010½; 8020½; 8030½; 8040½; 8050½; 8060½; 8070½; 8080½; 8090½; 8100½; 8110½; 8120½; 8130½; 8140½; 8150½; 8160½; 8170½; 8180½; 8190½; 8200½; 8210½; 8220½; 8230½; 8240½; 8250½; 8260½; 8270½; 8280½; 8290½; 8300½; 8310½; 8320½; 8330½; 8340½; 8350½; 8360½; 8370½; 8380½; 8390½; 8400½; 8410½; 8420½; 8430½; 8440½; 8450½; 8460½; 8470½; 8480½; 8490½; 8500½; 8510½; 8520½; 8530½; 8540½; 8550½; 8560½; 8570½; 8580½; 8590½; 8600½; 8610½; 8620½; 8630½; 8640½; 8650½; 8660½; 8670½; 8680½; 8690½; 8700½; 8710½; 8720½; 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New Checked Glaces, 14 Yards, £2 2s.
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A large assortment of New Patterns, £3 5s. 6d. for 14 yards.
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Goods are sent to all parts of the world (with dressmaker, and desired to all parts of England, and Patterns of the new Mourning Fabrics and the Imperial "Unspotted Crapè," to all parts of the world.
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N.B. In connection with the Coloured Establishment of Oxford-st.

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PETER ROBINSON has just completed, for ready cash, a very large purchase of Black Silks at an unusual advantage, of which he is anxious to give his customers the full benefit.
Good useful Black Silks from 45s. to 52s. 6d. the Dress.
Superior and most enduring qualities from 5s. to 7 guineas.
Very handsome hand-embroidered Silk Robes from 7 to 15 guineas.
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UNTEARABLE WIRE-GROUND BLACK GRENADINES, at PETER ROBINSON'S Mourning Warehouse, 256 to 262, Regent-street, London. Patterns free.

SILKS! SILKS! SILKS!
Patterns post-free.
Black Figured Gros Grains, both sides silks, 3s. 3d. per yard, worth 3s. 11d.
Wide-width Striped Silks, New Colours, £1 5s. 6d. the Dress of 12 yards.
The New Colours in Fancy Check Silks, £1 15s. 6d. the Dress of 14 yards, wide width.
These are worthy special attention.
Good wide-width Black Glaces, at 2s. 6d. and 3s. 11d.
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No 50, REGENT-STREET, LONDON, W.
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Invested Capital, £1,600,447.
Annual Income, £51,066.
Bonuses Declared, £14,157.
Claims paid since the Establishment of the Office, £3,756,600.

PRESIDENT—The Right Honourable Earl Grey.

The Profits, subject to a trifling deduction, are divided among the Insured.
Examples of Bonuses added to Policies issued by THE PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE.

Number of Policy.	Date of Policy.	Annual Premium.	Sum Insured.	Amount with Bonus Additions.
4718	1823	£ 15 10	£ 500	10,632 14 2
3924	1824	165 4 2	5000	10,164 19 0
4917	1824	205 13 4	4000	9,637 2 3
5795	1825	157 1 8	5000	9,253 5 10
3027	1816	122 12 4	4000	8,576 11 2
3944	1821	49 15 10	1000	2,498 7 6
788	1808	29 18 4	1000	2,327 13 5

The next division of profits will take place in April, 1868. Policies effected before the 1st of January, 1856, will be entitled to share in this division.

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